Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-195
Tuesday
8 October 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-195 8 October 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Urges Boycott of Peace Conference *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Yasir 'Arafat Interview on Peace Process *[London MBC TV]* 1

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak, Musa Discuss Progress Toward Peace *[MENA]* 6
Abu-Mazin Comments After Meeting Mubarak *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Gives October War Anniversary Speech *[Cairo Radio]* 6

Mauritania

Military Committee Outlines Election Rules *[AFP]* 10
Opposition Party Demands Transitional Government *[Paris International]* 10

Tunisia

Argentine President Arrives for Official Visit *[TAP]* 10
Ben Ali, Menem Discuss Issues *[Tunis Radio]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Purchase of U.S. Military Hardware Planned *[KUNA]* 12
Minister Says Martial Law Sentences 'Irrevocable'
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 29 Sep] 12

Saudi Arabia

Agreement With Atomic Energy Agency Authorized *[SPA]* 12

IRAQ

Opposition Radio Reports on Kurdish Clashes 13
Asserts Khanaqin Besieged *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 13
Details Recent Battles *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 13
Battle Report Updated *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 13
Humanitarian Group Confirms Kurdish Casualties *[AFP]* 13
Iraqi Forces Warned: Stop Attacks *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 14
'Self-Restraint' Urged in Current Clashes *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 14
Saddam Reportedly Executes Army General *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15

ISRAEL

Shamir Addresses Knesset Opening Session *[Jerusalem TV]* 16
'Reasonable Security Margins' Clarified *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Opposition Leader Peres Responds *[Jerusalem TV]* 19

Reply on Memo of Understanding Due 'This Week' *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
'Yes or No' Seen Not Forthcoming *[DAVAR 8 Oct]* 22
Comment Questions Need for Memorandum *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Oct]* 22
IDF, Defense Components To Move to Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 7 Oct]* 23
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi on U.S. Assurances *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
U.S. Moves Seen Affecting Likud, Labor Roles *[DAVAR 7 Oct]* 24
Construction of New Apartments in Golan Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Disappointment With Outcome of German Aid Talks *[HA'ARETZ 4 Oct]* 26
Sharon Calls for Primaries To Elect Likud Head *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Territories Arabs Banned From Jerusalem 7-8 Oct *[Jerusalem TV]* 26

JORDAN

Committee Chairman Responds to U.S. Letter *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Oct]* 27
Parliament Calls For al-Masri Resignation *[AFP]* 27
More on Resignation Petition *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 28
Resignation Issue Analyzed *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Oct]* 28
'Unprecedented' Opposition Noted *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Oct]* 29
Profiles of New Cabinet Members Published *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Oct]* 30
Preservation of National Unity, Cohesion Urged *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Oct]* 30

LEBANON

'Israeli Occupation Authorities' Release Prisoner *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Syria, Iran To Close Hostage File by December *[RFL]* 32
Buwayz Meets Karami, Comments on UN Visit *[VOL]* 32
Karami Defends Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 32
'Economic Agreement' Signed With Syria *[VOM]* 32

SYRIA

Egypt's Musa Arrives With Letter for al-Asad *[SANA]* 33
Mubarak Letter Calls For Summit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 33
Musa Departs Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 33
Vice President on Arab Ties, Peace, Hostages *[AL-ITTIHAD 5 Oct]* 33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Major General on Paktia Province Attacks *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Najibullah Aide: Stalemate Prevails in Gardeyz *[AFP]* 40
National Assembly Accuses Pakistan of Interference *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Kabul Protest Over Fighting, Pakistani Actions *[Kabul Radio]* 41

Bangladesh

MP's Seek Stay Against Presidential Election *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Court Rejects Petition *[Dhaka Radio]* 41

Iran

Red Cross Official on Hostage Release Efforts *[IRNA]* 42
Tehran Views Soviet-U.S. Nuclear Arms Cuts *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Fishermen Said Harassed by U.S. Helicopter *[IRNA]* 43
Dailies Rule Out Improved U.S. Relations *[IRNA]* 43
Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistani Ambassador *[Tehran Radio]* 43
French Official Comments on Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 43
Paper Urges Smooth Relations With France *[IRNA]* 44

Pakistan

'Mob' Attacks Iranian Cultural Center *[AFP]* ____ 44
Iranian Embassy Denies Involvement *[IRNA]* ____ 45
Group Warns Government Over Fazl Haq Murder *[THE NATION 7 Oct]* ____ 45

Sri Lanka

Speaker Suspends Assembly Amid Uproar *[AFP]* ____ 45

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Urges Boycott of Peace Conference

JN0710212591 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Call issued by the forces of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, operating inside the occupied territories—date not given]

[Text] Have they a share in dominion or power? Behold, they give not a farthing to their fellowmen. Ye who believe! Take your precautions and either go forth in parties or go forth all together. [Koranic verses]

Greetings of intifadah to those who have recorded the greatest epics of heroism and sacrifice on the soil of proud Palestine, beginning with the triangle of terror, Jenin; and going through the mount of fire, Nablus; redemption, Ramallah; the holiest place, Jerusalem; the brave men of Christ's birthplace; the heroes of Khalil al-Rahman [Hebron]; and ending with the lions of Hashim's Gaza.

O masses of our mujahid people. O you who have absorbed glorious Islam. O you who are continuing your blessed intifadah with pride and strength. You are giving examples of struggle, steadfastness, and sacrifice at a time when others have abandoned jihad and the lessons of sacrifice.

The conspiracy against your sacred cause has been going on since the ill-reputed Balfour Declaration. Over the past decades, the hypocrites and defeatists have rushed to help the Jewish enemy, to persuade the mujahidin to trust the promises of the allies and friends, to abandon jihad, to lay down arms, and to make sure that there were joint interests between us and the Jewish enemy. As a result, these foolish people believed these ideas, retreated, and called for peace with the murderers. The Jews and their allies have continued their designs, leading to the present situation.

Today, the enemies, supported by U.S. imperialism, have resumed the same tone and policy by proposing false peace plans and claiming the existence of joint interests between the victimized people and the Jewish enemy, an enemy which has never relinquished any of its plans. What is more painful is to see some people bow and make concessions to Baker.

O masses of our heroic people: While firmly supporting you, we in the PFLP-GC strongly urge you to be on your guard against relinquishing any particle of Palestine's soil. We tell the hypocrites, those who are retreating, the defeated, and the enemy's brokers to stop concessions because there will be no peace with the murderers. We will not be fooled into accepting these plans. Our holy land is not a subject of negotiations and bargains. Those who represent our Palestinian people are the fighters, those behind iron bars, and the wounded and martyrs. Our martyrs are appealing to us from their graves to take revenge.

While strongly believing that our principles will lead to the liberation of Palestine, we renounce the conference and we also refuse to participate in it. Just as we have done in the past, we announce: No to the conference that is designed to distort the Palestinian identity; yes to armed struggle and carrying rifles, and yes to jihad.

O masses of our heroic people: We in the PFLP-GC assert to you that we will continue the armed struggle and that we refuse to surrender. Therefore, we urge the following:

1. To consider 7 October, the day on which the intifadah began, as a day for renewing determination to continue the struggle.

2. To consider 8 October, the first anniversary of the terrible massacre at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as a day for taking revenge against the enemies and avenging the martyrs.

3. To consider 11 October, the anniversary of the Kafr Qasim massacre, as a day for stepping up the armed struggle.

4. To consider 2 November, the anniversary of the ill-omened Balfour Declaration, as a day of burning the ground under the feet of the Zionist invaders.

5. We support the positions of the brothers and comrades in all factions and movements who have rejected the conference of surrender and liquidation.

6. We call on the PLO to retreat from its mistake of trying to reconcile with the enemy and to stop concessions, especially since Shamir has disclosed his intention in announcing his no's. No to the Palestinian state, no to the principle of land for peace, no to withdrawal from the occupied land, and yes to the establishment of greater Israel. Let us act together to liberate land and man. God is great and victory is ours.

[Signed] The forces of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, operating inside the occupied territories

Yasir 'Arafat Interview on Peace Process

NC0510194791 London MBC Television in Arabic 1705 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by MBC correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] Mr. President: It is clear that the guarantees the PLO has requested for participation in the peace conference have become political goals. How do you assess the reaction to the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions, particularly by the United

States? Do you believe that the current fast-breaking events will lead to genuine peace in the Middle East?

['Arafat] First of all, I would like to say that the PNC meeting was a great achievement in terms of the present phase of the Palestinian struggle. The Palestinian people's representatives have confirmed their democratic principles and have exercised them in a mature way. They have also underlined their firm beliefs, which contradict with the conditions... [changes thought] or which confront the Israeli conditions. Meanwhile, we were precise about these conditions. We did not impose conditions, and, at the same time, we were not lax on matters of principle. When Mr. Baker says that Jerusalem is an occupied land, he is actually affirming the Arab and Palestinian position which maintains that Jerusalem is an occupied territory from which the Israelis should withdraw.

When we speak of the land for peace principle, we are actually referring to the Palestinian peace initiative that was launched in 1988. This initiative is also embedded in the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. It is one of the five main points in President Bush's initiative, which specifically calls for the exchange of land for peace and for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call for Israel to withdraw from all Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and for the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

We did not ask for the moon. Our resolutions were based on international legitimacy—and even on President Bush's initiative. The reaction, as I have told you, was positive in America and Europe as well as in Islamic and Arab countries. This became clear during the meetings that were held at the United Nations among the ministers of the nonaligned, Islamic, and Arab countries.

[Al-Silawi] Let us return to the U.S. position. Palestinian circles have said that there was a positive change in the U.S. position during the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni. This in turn led to Palestinian flexibility on the participation issue. Has there been a genuine change that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] would like to discuss?

['Arafat] I cannot say that there has been a dramatic change, except on two points, one of which concerns the remarks President Bush made following his meeting with His Majesty King Hassan II. Bush made a reference to the UN and UN Security Council resolutions. These resolutions state that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab territory and that settlements are illegitimate. These resolutions also describe the legitimate national and political rights of the Palestinian people as inalienable. There also has been an unequivocal statement about the political rights of the Palestinian people. In the past, the U.S. officials avoided talking about the Palestinian people and referred to Palestinians instead. The first official who used the former term was Mr. Baker, in the recent talks he held in Jerusalem with the Palestinian delegation—Faysal, Zakariya, and Hanan. When some papers or ideas were presented, they used the word Palestinians. After that, however, it became clear that the Palestinian people were being referred to. President Bush confirmed that in the statement he made after his talks with King Hassan II.

[Al-Silawi] Brother Abu-'Ammar, Israel has been making various conditions, has been rejecting the PLO's participation in any delegation, and also has been demanding a list of the names of the Palestinian delegation members. It is also threatening to withdraw from the conference and possibly will not attend it. What is your view of these conditions?

['Arafat] First of all, we reject the Israeli conditions lock, stock, and barrel. We are not prepared to go to a conference, whatever it is, under the Israeli conditions. We reject these conditions and will not deal with them. Our action is based on our national Palestinian and Arab principles. As for Shamir and his statements, give me just one example from history when one party imposed the names of the negotiating delegation on another. Schwarzkopf did not dictate the names of the Iraqi negotiators. In Potsdam after Germany was defeated, the allies did not even dare suggest who the members of the German delegation should be. The same happened in Algeria. Only the Israelis think they have the right to lay down their own rules, which violate all international laws, norms, and statutes. Even the Americans were unable to impose the membership of the Vietnamese delegation.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, Israel is continuing with the process of....

['Arafat, interrupting] [South African President] de Klerk could not make demands about his negotiating partners. He was compelled to release Nelson Mandela from prison and negotiate with him. The problem is that this Israeli Government and Shamir are still living in a bygone era and are afflicted with a reactionary mentality, both of which are far removed from today's mentality and principles. There is perestroyka. There is democracy. The Berlin wall does not exist anymore. The Baltic states have gained their independence. The cold war is over. Shamir, however, continues to dream of establishing his state from the Nile to the Euphrates, Greater Israel [preceding two words in English]. The Herut anthem still says: The West Bank and the East Bank are ours.

Where does the East Bank end? At the Euphrates? The meaning of these words must therefore be clear. Regrettably, we have seen that the U.S. Administration continues to respond to this Israeli blackmail and the U.S. Israeli lobby.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, Israel is continuing its settlement policy and has said that it will not stop. In your view, what is needed to oppose this at the international, Arab, and Palestinian levels, and how can the issue of the

existing settlements be resolved if peace is achieved? Is there a specific formula in brother Abu-'Ammar's mind?

['Arafat] I want to say something. Shamir cannot impose these settlements as a fait accompli. He must remember that Yamit [Israeli settlement in Sinai] was removed when the agreement to withdraw from Sinai was reached. Isn't this what happened? Wasn't Yamit removed? He is therefore insisting on mere bickering, and he is getting a response from the U.S. Administration. By God, what is all this about the $?0 billion loan? They told them: Wait for three months. Well, four months, but one month has already lapsed, so three months are left. Not only this, they also told them: Borrow, and we will pay the difference on the interest for the next three or four months. I calculated it. One calculation I came across wrongly says that every Israeli person gets $16,000. In truth, each gets more than $16,000—every Israeli gets $22,000. This is direct aid which is in addition to the indirect aid. Direct annual aid to Israel from the United States amounts to approximately $3.5 or $3.4 billion, and this is supplemented by the same amount in indirect aid, such as taxes and contributions that are deducted from U.S. taxes. Don't these come from the treasury? Israel is given the most favored nation status in its economic dealing with the United States. The total aid that Israel gets, therefore, is more than the combined total of what is given to all Third World countries. This is spoiling Israel. This is why we say that the United States follows two standards in its application of international legitimacy: one standard in the Gulf and another in Palestine. Yet another standard has been applied to the Baltic states, which have become independent. The international legitimacy that passed the resolution establishing Israel also affirmed the Palestinian people's right to set up their own state. Isn't that what the partition resolution said? As I said the other day, when Truman recognized Israel, he did so on the basis of two resolutions: 181 and 194, which concerns the return of the refugees. But, regrettably, they are continuing the [word indistinct].

Shamir must know that he cannot impose his conditions, even if there is a new world order. The Arab nation will not let this new order be established at its own expense.

[Al-Silawi] Brother President, the U.S.-proposed participation formula is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would be established following your agreement to participate in the conference and your positive response to the ongoing peace endeavors and the appeal of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. Mr. President, do you agree to this formula? What kind of coordination have you and Jordan reached? Will brother Abu-'Ammar visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan soon?

['Arafat] Yes. I will visit the Kingdom soon, God willing. I will go to Jordan immediately after I conclude the Executive Committee portfolio distribution meetings. I have received an emotional and fraternal telephone call from my brother His Majesty King Husayn. I thanked him on behalf of my brothers and our people. We are happy with the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. Our PNC has said that it is a unique relationship which will in the future be consolidated on a confederal basis between the states of Jordan and Palestine. At the same time, we will continue with this positive approach on the basis of the PNC resolutions. I would like to ask you one question: Who destroyed the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement? His majesty the king and I agreed on this point. Didn't Shultz destroy it? Didn't he drive wedges in it and reject it? We have agreed with his majesty the king since 1985.

[Al-Silawi] There is no Jordanian-Palestinian problem.

['Arafat] They are trying to depict the problem as an inter-Arab one instead of as an Arab-Israeli or Palestinian-Israeli one. We will not (?remain silent).

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, do you believe that the leaders of the frontline states could meet before the peace conference? What would President 'Arafat propose at this meeting?

['Arafat] We are seeking this five-sided [Egypt-Jordan-Syria-Lebanon-Palestine] meeting at several levels. We succeeded, thanks be to God, during the Arab League's foreign ministers meeting in early September, and yesterday and two days before during a meeting at the United Nations. We want to further this large-scale five-way cooperation by holding a summit among these countries, at which we would formulate a unified Arab position. We should not have separate agendas when we go to the Middle East peace conference, as we will be dealt with as individual parties. I do not believe that a conference can be held if these five countries do not have a unified view on all matters—as individuals they will have little leverage. The Israeli-American plan proceeds on two parallel courses: One concerns the Arab-Israeli conflict, which they want to deal with as they did at Camp David, and the other concerns the Palestinian-Israeli issue, which is proceeding in accordance with Israel's whims. Israel is in no hurry and wants to place every possible obstacle before the conference.

It is important that the Palestinians and the Arabs have a unified position which is supported by the other Arab countries, the Gulf states, the Maghreb countries, and the brothers in Sudan, Yemen, and other countries. We are eager to achieve this agreement, and we will work for it.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, internationally....

['Arafat, interrupting] Of course, don't forget that this should be preceded by a comprehensive Arab summit where we can proceed beyond our limited interests to the broader comprehensive pan-Arab interest.

[Al-Silawi] On the sidelines of the PNC meetings, brother Abu-'Ammar received messages from the Soviet and Chinese leaderships, and it has been said that the messages were related to the peace conference. What are

the most important points in these messages? Do you think that the Soviet Union can still play an important role?

['Arafat] I do not agree with the others who say that the Soviet Union is finished. Granted, it has domestic problems, but don't forget that this Soviet giant has 33,000 nuclear warheads. Just think. Some might say that this country can no longer be a great power or one of the two superpowers, but it definitely is a great power, and it has a role. Don't forget that the Soviet Union and the United States are the chairmen of the conference, and therefore it has an effective role. The Soviet-American relationship now requires them to coordinate their steps. We have been taken by surprise by the almost united Soviet-American stance.

[Al-Silawi] And the messages?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, these messages were related to the efforts being exerted to hold the peace conference.

[Al-Silawi] The water crisis may cause the next war. The region is suffering from a water shortage. Do you envision a practical solution to this issue of crucial strategic importance in the light of the fact that water resources have fallen to a point that poses a threat to mankind?

['Arafat] Let me tell you this: The Arab region is not suffering from severe drought, as we have many rivers. Basically, the Israelis are the ones who have been complaining. The Israelis say that they will have received between 2 and 3 million new immigrants by 1993. Just add this to the current population of 3.5 million Israelis. When you start talking about 7 million people, the water resources will of course seem insufficient. This is the problem. One of the points the Israelis are raising is the problem of water. Do not forget why the Israelis are holding on to the Lebanese border strip. This area contains three water resources. The waters of the al-Hasbani and al-Wazzani Rivers have been diverted, officially and in practice, to occupied Palestine. As for the al-Litani River, a large amount of its water is being pumped into Israel mechanically. This is an Israeli problem, not an Arab one. I do not believe that we have an Arab problem. We do have some difficulties concerning water, but these can be resolved within the Arab family.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, are there any ongoing Palestinian-Saudi-Gulf contacts?

['Arafat] Our ties with the Gulf brothers are normal, and we are seeking to enhance them. This is particularly true with regard to our brothers in Saudi Arabia. We have not forgotten that our Saudi brothers were the only ones who paid the full contribution that they promised the PLO, Syria, and Jordan. I plead with His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, to remember—and I am sure he will—the third holy mosque in Jerusalem.

[Al-Silawi] During the PNC meeting, some called for changes in the Palestinian leadership and for new blood that can cope with the current phase. Do you believe that this demand has been met in a way that will meet the challenges of the coming phase and of peace?

['Arafat] Have you forgotten that there are nine new members in the PLO Executive Committee? Nine new members. I think that this was a major achievement. Nine new members. We also have a program to overhaul the rest of the PLO's departments to bring them in line with the challenges facing us as Palestinians and Arabs. We are not ignoring our problems. There may have been some mistakes. We should not condone them, but nor should we exaggerate them. We should recall the words of Jesus Christ: He among you who is without sin may cast the first stone.

We are a revolution. We have been at the cutting edge of modern revolution. We have established democracy within the revolution, democracy for the [word indistinct] guns.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, the intifadah is a household word with regard to the Palestinian struggle. The intifadah is approaching its fifth year now, and there have been calls to reevaluate it, in view of the fact that its military aspect is growing at the expense of its popular aspect. Will the intifadah be reevaluated and redirected so it can regain its former character?

['Arafat] First of all, let me tell you one thing. We in the Intifadah Higher Command are constantly following up on the minute details of this blessed intifadah. The intifadah is a unique example in resisting occupation. The intifadah preceded the popular uprising in East Europe, and its example was followed by many countries. We should not forget, however, that the Israelis have committed hideous crimes against our children and women. There are 89,000 prisoners in Israeli prisons, some of which have been described by some Israelis as being worse than the Nazi concentration camps. These are not my words, they are those of Israeli leaders, and this is not all. There have been 92,000 people injured in connection with the intifadah, and approximately 6,500 people have been disabled by serious injuries. There have also been 7,200 cases of miscarriage among our women as a result of these crimes, and an internationally banned chemical gas has been used, which the Israelis claim to be tear gas. Two teams—a joint Netherlands-Belgian one and a U.S. one—analyzed the so-called tear gas canisters and found out that they were actually internationally banned chemical bombs. No one is talking about that issue, however.

Our people are confronting a chemical war. How else can you explain the 7,200 miscarriages? There have been other crimes against our Muslim and Christian shrines, particularly the Judaization of Jerusalem. I want to ask: Is there one Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, or Christian who agrees with the Judaization of Jerusalem and of the Muslim and Christian shrines there? Of course not. I would like to tell you something. From the beginning of the intifadah we ordered our people not to use weapons,

and, so far, they have respected these orders. But their patience may yet run out. Do not forget that the Israeli crimes provoke some youths to answer in kind. We try to restrain them, but, as I told you, the injustice against us is continuing. Our homes are being blown up. Trees are being bulldozed, thousands of olive trees, trees that we call Roman, meaning they have been in existance from the time of Roman rule, some 2,000 years ago. They have been bulldozed. You know, some families cherish such trees as if they were family members. The intifadah, however, will continue, wave after wave, until a child of the stone-throwing generation raises the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's wall, minarets, and churches.

[Al-Silawi] This is my second-to-last question. Brother Abu-'Ammar, President Bush has announced plans for the reduction of nuclear arms, and there have been international efforts to contain the proliferation of such weapons. How do you assess these efforts with regard to the Middle East? President Mubarak has also made an initiative for the removal of nuclear and mass destruction weapons from the Middle East. What do you have to say about this?

['Arafat] Regrettably, at the same time that such initiatives are being made, Israel is being allowed to buy nuclear reactors. Israel made an announcement to this effect only two days ago. There is a catch here. Where does Israel buy such equipment? From major countries. How can Israel be allowed to do that? Israel has a stockpile of nuclear, chemical, and biological warheads, but no one is making any fuss about that. Pressure is only being put on Iraq, Libya, Algeria, or Pakistan. There is a nuclear, chemical, and biological stockpile in Israel. If peace is our goal, we should start by dealing with this stockpile.

Of course, we favor reducing such weapons, and this is a goal which we share with everyone who is concerned about humanity's fate. We believe in the comprehensive reduction of weapons of mass destruction. Such destruction should not just apply to the Arab countries; it should also apply to Israel. Israel is obtaining all its [word indistinct], missiles, and warheads with the assistance of major countries—the United States and, before that, South Africa, France, Denmark, and other countries.

[Al-Silawi] As president of the state of Palestine, you have issued a decree forming a Civil Status Department to issue personal and family ID's. Is this a prelude to issuing a Palestinian passport? Can we expect such passports to be issued soon to end the problem of travel documents? Brother Abu-'Ammar, there is much suffering....

['Arafat, interrupting] It is not that simple. The Palestinian passport is a special document. There has been an Arab League decision concerning the issuance of such a passport, but I cannot issue this passport if the Arab League does not guarantee that it will be treated like any other Arab passport. In any other case, this passport will only create another problem for the Palestinians.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, thank you very much, and I hope that we will meet again.

['Arafat] In Jerusalem, God willing.

[Al-Silawi] God willing.

['Arafat] Believe me, I have never lost hope that such a day will come. I wish to tell our generals among the stone-throwing generation that we have an appointment with victory and with the dawn. The day will come when we pray together in Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque.

Egypt

Mubarak, Musa Discuss Progress Toward Peace

NC0710141291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this morning.

After the meeting Musa said that he briefed President Mubarak on the meetings and contacts he had at the UN General Assembly opening session. The foreign minister added that he then attended President Mubarak's meeting with a Palestinian delegation as part of the coordination and consultations over the peace process. He noted the current intensive activity to prepare for the peace process. He pointed out that contacts will be made with the various parties immediately preceding the peace conference, which we hope will be held as soon as possible.

Asked about reports that U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev might cochair the opening session of the peace conference, he said these are just reports and noth.ng has been decided yet.

In response to a question on the Damascus Declaration, Musa said the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories will meet in early November and consultations are under way to set a date for the meeting.

Asked what is new now since President Mubarak received a message from the Israeli leadership through Argentine President Carlos Menem, a message President Mubarak described as promising and a first step toward peace, Musa said: This does not necessarily mean there is something new. He added: It is important that Israel participate in the peace conference, and it is even more important that Israel's participation in the peace process be on the basis of Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace.

In response to a question on the report that the Soviet foreign minister and U.S. secretary of state will visit the region soon, Musa said: We know that this was stated, but no date has been set yet.

Regarding the venue of the peace conference, the foreign minister said more than 50 capitals in Europe and the Americas want to host the conference and consultations are under way to select one. Answering a question on whether the conference could be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, Musa said: It is possible; nothing is ruled out.

Abu-Mazin Comments After Meeting Mubarak

NC0710122491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting.

Speaking after the meeting, 'Abbas said that he briefed Mubarak on the details of the Palestine National Council [FNC] results, which were well received by Egypt. I explained to the president the outcome of my visit to Jordan, 'Abbas said, and we discussed the peace process and the peace conference, which is expected to be held in a few weeks.

Asked if anyone intends to hold a five-party meeting [Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO], 'Abbas said all parties still want to hold the meeting, but that no date has been set. Such a meeting, he said would benefit all parties.

Asked about the current Palestinian stand in light of yesterday's call by President Mubarak on the need to take advantage of the current opportunity, 'Abbas said this was reflected clearly and specifically in the PNC resolutions, which are absolutely identical to what President Mubarak said. The Palestinian official said: The Jordanian position is the same as the Palestinian position.

Asked if they had demanded some clarifications from the United States, 'Abbas said: We are requesting some more clarifications, which are essential for us to get a complete picture and take part in the peace conference.

Mubarak Gives October War Anniversary Speech

NC0610190091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1640 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the occasion marking the 18th anniversary of the 1973 October War victory at the al-Jala' Theater in Heliopolis—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brother citizens, brothers and sons in the Armed Forces: Before I begin my speech on this occasion, I wish to invite you to stand in honor of the souls of our martyrs.

In the history of great nations there are great days which surpass events and survive over the years as a torch lighting the road to the future for generation after generation. On such days, the homeland's genuine and noble values are revived to safeguard its march and objectives and urge it to progress toward these sound objectives.

These great days are valuable because they reveal the true nature of the people under difficult conditions, which helps them put down feelings of desperation and loss; they bring about a rebirth which reveals the integrity of this nature; and they give them a degree of self-confidence which defies miracles.

Of these great days in Egypt, the October celebration will continue to be a source of pride for the Egyptian people and Armed Forces throughout history, because October

means the revival of the soul and the rebirth of the power of the will. It symbolizes the soundness of the decision-making and the greatness of the mobilization as well as the magnificent performance and sacrifices. To us, October means a self-confidence which helps us overcome all difficulties, a confidence in the future regardless of the problems of the present, and a confidence in the correct goal that we chose; namely, pursuing a just and comprehensive peace regardless of the obstacles.

This year, the October anniversary coincides with another glorious day in the history of Egypt and its Armed Forces, as we are also celebrating the victorious return of our brave sons from the Gulf, where they have fulfilled a great national mission and have delivered an important pan-Arab message which will be recorded in history as a brilliant signpost along the road of sacrifice and giving. They brought back a testimonial of pride to a great people who appreciate the meaning of pan-Arab responsibility, and they added a new glorious chapter to the history of our Armed Forces. They took on their responsibility as they defended the right of an Arab people whose homeland was threatened with being eliminated from the earth by aggression. They proved they were capable of discharging this responsibility as they asserted with a spirit of sacrifice that Egypt will continue to safeguard the Arab nation. They further proved this with their great combat performance and their fine humanitarian conduct when they gained victory for the values of right and justice in a war imposed by a blatant aggression against the principles of legitimacy and law and the values of brotherhood and religion.

The decision to send Egyptian forces to the Gulf was an honest reflection of Egypt's national conscience, which rejected the invasion and saw its real objectives and grave dangers despite the deceptive campaigns that tried to conceal the invasion's goals and hide its ugly face under false masks.

Egyptian society supported its Armed Forces' noble task during difficult Arab times—when different views and divergent stands prevailed, when the good cards were shuffled with the bad, but also when the most remarkable national unity was nonetheless demonstrated.

A few people took another stand for reasons we are all familiar with, and we decided to see this as a difference of opinion being expressed in a democratic society, which defends the right of pluralism. This belief stems from our confidence in the Egyptian's ability to distinguish between right and wrong and between truth and falsehood.

The role played by our Armed Forces was an honest reflection of the values of our noble people, who defended their national task with complete honor and trust. Our people defend justice, reject falsehood, and place the supreme national interest over narrow and selfish interests.

The nature of the mission and our brave men's distinguished performance demonstrate the honor of Egyptian militarism, which has never left its homeland to carry out an aggression against another. Greetings to the men of the Armed Forces who have returned after carrying out a noble mission which has been the expression of a principled Egyptian stand that has lifted Egypt's head very high and has added many new pages to Egypt's excellent military records.

Our humble greetings to our noble martyrs, whose pure blood was spilled on this spot in the land of Arabism and Islam to champion the cause of freedom and justice and to give an eloquent lesson in patriotism and sacrifice for the next generations.

Brothers and sisters, this pure page that the Egyptian Armed Forces have written on the Arab land is a splendid addition to the great epic of October, which will remain the one of the greatest accomplishments in the history of Egypt and the Arabs. It will also continue to be considered the turning point in the history of the Middle East region, which is extremely important on the international level.

October will continue to represent one of the greatest achievements for Egypt and the Arabs because, through this glorious fighting epic, it showed the whole world the Egyptians' ability to accomplish a unique military operation, which has changed many strategies of war and has destroyed theories that had become doctrines in military thinking. It also confirmed to everyone that the Arab nation is not doomed to a destiny of division and discord.

The October War was a genius accomplishment for every officer and soldier, but it was also a true expression of the nobility of our people, who rejected defeat and whose penetrating awareness realized that defeat was caused by factors beyond men's courage, their readiness for sacrifice, and their ability to defend the homeland's honor and heritage. The people stood by their Armed Forces throughout the war preparation period, giving them support and offering them everything that was dear and precious, as they were confident of their ability to repulse the forces of aggression and oppression. When the battle began and the men stormed the canal, flying Egypt's flags on the good land of Sinai, the people were living through the events and challenges of the war moment by moment with their Armed Forces. When the soldiers shouted God is Great over the sands of Sinai, the echoes of their voices quickly reverberated throughout the country. The slogan became a hymn on every breath and a reverberating cry in all parts of Egypt, demonstrating the great people's determination to resist defeat.

The nobility and capabilities of the Egyptian people were also demonstrated by the miraculous performance of their Armed Forces and in the unique cohesion that united the domestic and battle fronts into one body. This unity gave rise to a spirit of new awakening which was confident of its ability to triumph.

Brothers, one of the most important reasons behind the October War's success was that it was based on a

political decision which was characterized by courage, wisdom, and the careful consideration of difficult and complex international realities. The decision that was made demonstrated the highest courage, because it was made under circumstances of detente, in which the superpowers had agreed to prevent the danger of confrontation or the escalation of any regional conflict to a level that would have threatened their new detente. The decision was made under these complex international conditions to confirm to the entire world, through the Egyptian and Syrian forces' initiative, that the Arab will would never dim or surrender, that the Egyptians would never remain passive, that the state of military inactivity that the superpowers sought for the Middle East would not come about, and that the Arab sense of justice would never die.

In addition to being courageous, the decision also demonstrated the height of wisdom because it set a correct and realistic goal without any excess gambling; it mobilized all the resources that guaranteed the achievement of this goal; and it sought to ensure all the conditions that would give this objective legitimacy and thus guarantee its acceptance.

All the conditions for making the glorious decision on the October War were fulfilled, and the objective was defined in a practical way which ensured its acceptance and legitimacy. The operation aimed to liberate the national soil and put an end to foreign occupation. It never sought to destroy Israel.

Every resource was mobilized to achieve this objective. The resources were mobilized and channeled to serve the battle of liberation, which became a great national and pan-Arab plan that was unanimously endorsed by the people. All the Arab and international circumstances were prepared in a way that gave the war legitimacy as a just and necessary action to establish a lasting and just peace which would ensure all parties their rights on an equal basis. It rejected arrogance and destroyed the claims of hegemony and superiority as well as intentions to expand at the expense of others' rights.

This is the leadership's responsibility in any political decision, and it doubles and quadruples if the decision concerns war, which is the most serious issue affecting a people's fate. War is the most demanding option and the most difficult one to choose for those who know its significance, who are aware of the responsibility it entails, and who take the peoples' interests into their calculations in isolation from selfish whims and indomitable personal ambitions.

The responsibility and honor of the leadership compels each individual decision maker to put his selfish whims and personal ambitions aside when deciding on a particular course of action. He should be able to differentiate between possible and impossible aims and should realize the difference between courage and undue risk and between what is legitimate and fair and what is forbidden and unjust. He must not be governed by false arrogance or pride.

The October War was completely legitimate and justified. It was not a war of aggression or occupation; nor did it aim to annex other's territories or violate their rights. Its sole aim was simply to liberate the homeland's soil from the desecration of occupation and to enable the people to exercise their sovereignty over every inch of the national soil. This homeland has been an untouchable and protected entity since the birth of civilization and will remain so, God willing.

It was a war for peace waged by Egypt's heroic sons in order to create a vicious circle of violence and destruction that exhausted the region's resources. This in turn was designed to create a new atmosphere that would permit constructive negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace which would ensure all parties their security, rights, and legitimate interests and would solve the problem of relations in the Middle East in a way that would establish creative coexistence and good-neighborliness among all the region's peoples without exception.

The October War was the inevitable and necessary option, because the sincere efforts that Egypt had made on the road of peace were not heeded before the war. This was also true because we knew that Egypt could not fully regain its dignity except through a battle in which the Egyptians reiterated their ability to deter the forces of aggression. Waiting any longer would have only wasted time while permitting the consolidation of the occupation and an expansion in settlement building, thus imposing a new situation that would have been difficult to change.

The decision for war was a momentous choice, and its timing was a stroke of genius on the part of the great son of Egypt, late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. [applause]. He made this decision based on his complete allegiance to his homeland, his profound realization of the seriousness of his historic responsibility, his full confidence in the Armed Forces and their men, and his full awareness of our noble people's substance and origin. For all these reasons, the decision of October will remain a splendid example of the wisdom and courage of this ideal leadership in Egyptian and Arab history. All the successive generations of Egypt's sons will continue to remember this brave decision with gratitude and pride.

The October War provided the most splendid image of Arab solidarity when the liberation war was simultaneously launched on two fronts—by Egyptian and Syrian forces—and when the Egyptian forces stormed the canal at the same time that the Syrian forces stormed the Golan Heights in full coordination for a thrilling beginning. They were supported by broad Arab solidarity from the ocean to the gulf. Every Arab supported the

battle of liberation and reiterated the Arab nation's ability to accept the challenge.

The October War will remain a true example in Arab history of how it is possible to set up genuine Arab solidarity. The comradeship demonstrated in the struggle alongside fraternal Syria will remain a torch illuminating our joint steps on the path toward justice and peace.

Brothers and sisters, the October victory opened the way to peace from a position of pride and dignity, because it restored balance and cohesion to the situation. Its outcome created new circumstances that enabled the Arabs and the Israelis to reach a just and acceptable formula for a comprehensive peace which fulfills the legitimate rights of all parties without the complexities of hegemony, fear, and the dreams of expansion at the expense of others.

Egypt accepted the challenge of peace from this position of pride and dignity with the same capability it demonstrated when facing the challenges of war. It led the ranks toward the right objective and was confident of its correct steps. Egypt sought to prove to everyone that peace was not an impossible goal and that it could be established by respecting rights and accepting the rule of legitimacy and law in formulating new and equal relations that would ensure existence, cooperation, and goodneighborliness for everyone.

President al-Sadat began the process with a confident insistence on accepting the challenge of peace and a firm determination to make all the parties shoulder their responsibility. He continued this process up until the last moment of his eventful life, and no one can belittle the achievements he made for Egypt and the world. Greetings to Anwar al-Sadat, the war hero and creator of peace. [applause] Greetings to him on the day he made the decision for war against everyone's expectations. Greetings to him on the day he continued along the path toward peace confident of the soundness of his goal. Greetings to him on the day when he died for the sake of the people and the homeland.

Brothers and sisters, I am fully confident that, in the end, the just peace will be established no matter what the obstacles. We will continue along the road to peace because our cause is just, we uphold our principles, and we are armed with the great values that characterized the October War: self-confidence, a strong belief in our goal, and the determination to achieve it regardless of the obstacles. Israel's negative practices will not prevent us from proceeding along this road to make all the parties shoulder their responsibility, despite the difficulty involved. We will not forget that there are those who are attempting to thwart our efforts because peace contradicts with the illusion of their schemes or because peace might reduce the role they have to play.

We will not abandon the arena and allow these or others to abort the process or poison the atmosphere, because everyone is demanding peace and because life prospers under the canopy of peace. Peace is the language of the new era that calls for rejecting the war option, stresses human rights, opens the window of freedom to all people, rules out the ideologies of conflict and violence, and urges secure coexistence and competition in the fields of human advancement.

If there are some who are still under the illusion that the world could take a step backward and that the international community could once again squander its efforts on the conflicts of polarization, the cold war, the arms race, and the expansion of the scope of war, and could return to inflaming the pits of tension and violence, then these deluded persons are simply the remnants of a bygone era.

If some still believe that human ideologies are eternal and thus maintain their inflexible views while falsely dressing them with the garment of sacredness and eternity in order to violate other people's rights, these too are merely remnants from the past.

Brothers and sisters, over the past months and weeks the peace process has seen intensive, difficult, and exhausting efforts that have involved the participation of numerous regional and international forces. The United States has been a prominent player in these efforts, which also have been aided by the positive and constructive Soviet position and the stand of the EC, which pays much attention to the events and problems of the Middle East. These efforts focused on convening the peace conference in the coming weeks, which will be attended by all the concerned parties and will be based on the UN resolutions. The effort seeks to use the existing momentum and the positive developments that have accumulated over the past few years to put an end to many people's fears that there will be a delay in achieving peace which is contrary to the overwhelming international trend.

We are facing a final historic opportunity—which may not be repeated—to achieve a just settlement that would establish the Palestinians' rights, ensure the security of all the parties including Israel, and would formulate new and correct relations in the Middle East region. We hope that all the parties will shoulder their responsibilities and assume their duty toward the challenges of peace. What reinforces this historic opportunity is fraternal Syria's joining of the peace efforts. It is an opportunity for the Israelis as much as it is for the Arabs and the Palestinians, because neither will be able to end the existence of the other, and because no one will be able to defeat the will of a people who reject occupation and insist on their right to self-determination.

I say to the Israeli people, who know the hardships and losses of war, from this rostrum and on the occasion of the glorious October War: Nothing is equal to peace, because peace is the message of heaven and the task of man on earth. Peace will not be peace unless it is just and responds to other people's rights. Just peace guarantees security, the future, and continued existence, because

strength—whatever level it reaches—has a limit, and because the history of nations lasts longer than temporary ambitions.

I say to the Palestinian people, who are experiencing the hardships of occupation: It would be a grave mistake if this historic opportunity were to be wasted. There have been numerous times throughout history when the opportunity to secure the Palestinian's rights was not taken advantage of. It would not be wise for this opportunity to be missed as well or for the Palestinian side to be responsible for this waste. The situation demands that the Palestinian voice be unified and confident of the goal of peace, so as to avoid giving others the chance to delay the current efforts.

Brother citizens, to us October means right, justice, and peace. Our goal will continue to reject aggression, spread peace, plant the trees of freedom and brotherhood. We want justice to prevail and injustice to disappear, and we want to live in a secure area free from violence and hatred. Our method is to resort to the principles of justice and submit to the rule of law. Our principle is to achieve agreement through persuasion and free will. We want our souls to be free of hatred, greed, and rancor; our hearts, brothers and sisters, to be full of faith and piety; our steps to be firm and unhesitating; our land to be the holy of holies and the cradle of civilization; our martyrs to be the dearest of sons and the model of sacrifice; our work to be pure and devoted to God and the country. May God grant us success. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Mauritania

Military Committee Outlines Election Rules

AB0810095591 Paris AFP in English 0306 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 8 (AFP)—Mauritania's ruling Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) announced details Monday regarding forthcoming presidential, legislative and senatorial elections.

No date has been set for the elections which will be conducted by universal suffrage.

Under the terms of an election law promulgated by the CMSN and broadcast Monday, the presidential election will be over two rounds between candidates aged at least 40, of the Moslem religion, seeking a six-year mandate.

Candidates for the 79 parliamentary seats must be aged over 25. The mandate will be for five years.

Candidates for the 56-seat senate, whose mandate is for six years, must be over 35.

Seven political parties, including the party of President Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, have so far been officially recognised in Mauritania.

Opposition Party Demands Transitional Government

LD0810104991 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Mauritania—An opposition party today called for the forming of a transitional government. The party, the Union of Democratic Forces [UFP], was created last week. It now presents itself as the leading opposition party. Thierry Perret reports.

[Perret] [passage omitted] The UFP is setting preconditions for its participation in the democratic process: first the forming of a transitional government of national unity; then consultations for drawing up an electoral law; a review of the election lists; and the opening up of the state media to opposition parties. If these conditions are not satisfied, the UFP envisages taking other, unspecified action. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Argentine President Arrives for Official Visit

LD0710134291 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Tunis, 7 Oct (TAP)—Argentinian President Carlos Saul Menem arrived in Tunisia this morning on a two-day official visit.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was at Tunis-Carthage International Airport to receive his guest.

Ben Ali, Menem Discuss Issues

LD0710223991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks with Argentinian President Carlos Menem, who is on an official visit in Tunisia, at Carthage Palace this afternoon. The official spokesman for the Presidency of the Republic later declared that the two leaders discussed the relations of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Argentina and the prospects that this first visit opens for the future of their relations, with a view to giving a new boost to bilateral cooperation. The spokesman added that during his talks with the Argentinian president, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealt with the action of comprehensive reform that Tunisia has been undertaking since the change of 7 November, which is aimed at establishing a prosperous and developed society where democracy and multiparty politics prevail and where liberties and human rights are protected.

His excellency the president also highlighted the factors that are suitable for the development and intensification of bilateral cooperation, to encompass various economic, cultural, and commercial domains to equilibrate the balance of trade and serve the interests of the two friendly countries. The official spokesman then indicated that the talks also enabled the two sides to review the current international situation, particularly the

developments in the Middle East region and the peace efforts being made to find suitable solutions to the region's issues and for its future. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also stressed Tunisia's commitment to the principles of peace and international legitimacy. He recalled the action undertaken by Tunisia to support peace efforts and reiterated our country's firm stand on the Middle East issue and its belief that resolving the issues of this region can only be done by reaching a just and peaceful solution of the Palestinian issue which should be based on international legitimacy and which guarantees to the Palestinian people their rights that are recognized by the international community.

The official spokesman went on to say that President Carlos Menem renewed to his excellency the president his thanks and appreciation for inviting him to visit Tunisia, as this gives him the opportunity to discover the characteristics of this region, which he is visiting for the first time. The Argentinian president also expressed his country's readiness to give Tunisian-Argentinian cooperation a new boost to help achieve a greater approachement between the two countries and the two friendly peoples. President Carlos Menem also expressed Argentina's position on the Middle East issue and reiterated his country's readiness to give all the necessary support and help to the efforts being made to bring about peace in the region. [passage omitted]

[Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 2100 GMT notes that Presidents Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Carlos Menem held a second round of talks at Carthage Palace on 7 October. The radio states: "The Presidency official spokesman indicated that the two presidents reviewed once again the peace efforts in the Middle East and discussed what Tunisia and Argentina could do to support the peace efforts and contribute toward guaranteeing aspects of security and stability in this region. On the other hand, the official spokesman stated that the two presidents exchanged opinions on the issue of debts, as it is among the matters of common interest."]

Kuwait

Purchase of U.S. Military Hardware Planned

LD0710163291 London KUNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait 7 Oct (KUNA)—Informed military sources report that the state's concerned authorities have contracted to purchase 40 F-18 aircraft from the United States in order to strengthen the Kuwaiti Air Force with this aircraft, which proved its superiority during the Desert Storm battles. The sources told Kuwaiti AL-WATAN that the first group of six aircraft will arrive in Kuwait at the beginning of next year. There is also the intention to buy Apache helicopters, but the military sources did not reveal their number.

Kuwait is also about to purchase a number of American Abrams tanks, which proved superior during the war to liberate Kuwait with their high effectiveness and fighting capabilities. AL-WATAN also reports that Kuwait has contracted the purchase of Hawk and Patriot antimissile and antiaircraft missiles, in addition to another four missile batteries [not further specified] which will be installed in Kuwait by the end of this year or the beginning of 1992.

The military sources told the newspaper that the defense agreement specifies in some of its article that the United States should prepare and train the Kuwaiti Armed Forces on the latest weapons in order that Kuwait can deter any aggression to which it could be exposed in the future. These sources pointed out that Kuwait, after obtaining the F-18 fighters, would sell the Kuwaiti Air Force's Mirage aircraft.

The military sources pointed out that the Ministry of Defense is currently studying the introduction of radical changes into the compulsory conscription system, and that the study will be announced very soon.

Minister Says Martial Law Sentences 'Irrevocable'

PM0210114491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p 3

[Faris al-Salman report: "Justice Minister Announces Return of State Security Court Circuits"]

[Text] Kuwait—Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar has announced that the formation of state security court circuits has been completed. He revealed that the state security prosecution office will in the next few days refer those who cooperated with the Iraqi regime to state security courts for their cases to be examined.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday Al-Sammar said that "the sentences issued during the martial law period are final." He also said that "the martial law governor approved them at the time and they are irrevocable." He added that "the prosecution office will recast the cases that were not referred to the martial law courts and then refer them to state security."

Minister al-Sammar said that "this applies to all the cases which were referred but did not reach the martial law courts, since they will be referred to the state security court.

Concluding his statement, he said that martial law sentences included state security cases, misdemeanors, and felonies. He pointed out that "each case will be referred to its appropriate circuit."

Saudi Arabia

Agreement With Atomic Energy Agency Authorized

LD0710211391 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 7, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, presided here this afternoon a regular weekly session of the Saudi Council of Ministers, which reviewed a brief report on recent political, security and economic changes in Arab and international arenas.

After the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency that the cabinet followed events related to on-going efforts to establish peace in the Middle East region through the Arab leaderships and international forums.

The information minister said the cabinet discussed also some of the local topics on the agenda of the session, which were submitted for study. It also listened to views and suggestions of the concerned ministers and took measures on them. Some of these topics relate to the general services for the citizens.

In the framework of requests, 'Ali al-Sha'ir said the cabinet issued the following resolutions:

..Firstly, it delegated the defence and aviation minister to sign an accord between governments of Saudi Arabia and Sultanate of Brunei (Dar Al-Salam) for air transportation between and beyond their two regions on the basis of the attached formula with the resolution. On completion of signing procedures on the original copies of the accord and the memorandum of understanding, they will be submitted to the cabinet for issuing the necessary decree and resolution.

..Secondly, the cabinet entrusted the foreign minister or whom-so-ever he authorises to sign an additional revised agreement on technical assistance between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Saudi Arabian Government on the basis of the attached formula. On completion of its final signing, its signed copies will be submitted to the cabinet for completing the authorising procedures. The information minister the cabinet approved appointment of Hamud bin-Ibrahim bin-Muhammad al-Rubiyan as the director general of Al-Mujahidin Directorate with the 15th grade.

Opposition Radio Reports on Kurdish Clashes

Asserts Khanaqin Besieged

NC0610133091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have asserted that the tyrant regime's forces have been besieging the city of Khanaqin for two days. These forces stormed homes and arrested a number of young men.

The sources stated that the defeated regime's authorities discovered the bodies of [words indistinct] of the regime who are known for chasing anti-regime elements.

The sources added that Iraqi holy cities are still suffering from deliberate negligence in terms of public services, which have deteriorated to their lowest levels in Karbala' and al-Najaf. Potable water is nonexistent and health services have ceased completely in the major hospitals of both cities.

Details Recent Battles

NC0710191391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1707 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Until this morning, the general situation in the city of Kifri and the surrounding areas could have been described as follows: The government shelling of Kifri on 5 October has martyred four of our peshmerga fighters and a group of innocent civilians, and wounded a large number of citizens. On the same day, the government forces took control of Kifri following ground and air bombardment which caused thousands to flee.

The government forces then escalated their attack against the peshmerga positions in the Sarqala area. The Kurdistan front's peshmerga forces confronted and defeated the government forces, which left behind 20 destroyed tanks. Two officers and 10 soldiers were taken prisoner, and one armored personnel carrier, two vehicles, and two DShK machine guns were seized. The government forces did not stop there, however. They launched another attack against the peshmerga of the Kurdistan front. The government forces came from the 3d Armored Division and consisted of the 8th and 12th Brigades, a mechanized infantry regiment with 78 tanks and nine armored personnel carriers at its disposal. The peshmerga forces confronted this attack with the following results: Approximately 35 tanks and armored vehicles were destroyed or burned; one tank, one armored carrier, three vehicles, and a radio set were seized; a captain and 22 soldiers were taken prisoner; and the 12th Brigade was totally destroyed. The government forces lost three armored personnel carriers, which were destroyed near Klar, where one tank was also seized and four officers and 24 soldiers were taken prisoner.

Battle Report Updated

NC0710192091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Dear listeners, here is a brief update on the latest developments: Two helicopters bombarded the city of Darbandikhan this afternoon, but there were no casualties. Other helicopters bombarded the villages of [name indistinct] and Sayyid Mahmud, wounding several people. The government forces stationed on the hills overlooking the road between Bakrajah and Qalawa shelled al-Sulaymaniyah with mortars. The attack wounded and killed many citizens, prompting the management of al-Sulaymaniyah Hospital to appeal for blood donations.

The present situation in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate can be summed up as follows: The masses and peshmerga forces have disarmed the government forces in al-Sulaymaniyah, Arbat, Barika, Zarayin, Darbandikhan, and Klar. Seven residents of Kifri and Klar were martyred, and more than 30 others were wounded. The government forces in al-Sulaymaniyah suffered losses involving dozens of dead and wounded, and 99 officers and soldiers were taken prisoner.

Humanitarian Group Confirms Kurdish Casualties

NC0710204091 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 7 (AFP)—Heavy Iraqi shelling of Kurdish positions in northeast Iraq caused "numerous deaths" on Monday, the humanitarian organization Medecins sans Frontiers (MSF) reported.

MSF-Belgium, quoting teams on the ground, said that in addition, 250 wounded had been been admitted so far at al-Sulaymaniyah hospital, while 100 more were admitted to the MSF hospital in Sayyid Sadiq, it said.

Every hour, thousands of refugees were seeking shelter in Sayyid Sadiq, as the intensified Iraqi bombardment raged over the regions of al-Sulaymaniyah, Arabit, Klar, and Darband Khan, MSF said.

The fierce clashes, which involved Iraqi helicopters and heavy artillery, were taking place in the north-east region of Iraq, where more than 50,000 Kurdish refugees were based, the humanitarian organization said.

Meanwhile, in Damascus, the Iraqi Communist Party said that Iraqi troops had attacked several towns in the region since Saturday.

"Several people were killed or wounded and hundreds of families were forced to flee," a spokesman told AFP.

Iraqi Forces Warned: Stop Attacks

NC0710185491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Iraqi Government is Trying To Assassinate the Peace Effort in Kurdistan"]

[Text] The Iraqi Government began large scale provocative operations in the Kifri region on 5 October, massing huge forces in the area. This action has been taken at a time when negotiations are continuing between the Kurdistan front and the Iraqi Government to achieve an honorable and peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem. The Kurdistan front is trying very hard to take all the necessary measures to prevent fighting and war from breaking out in Kurdistan once again. The Iraqi Government, however, is using all its crooked methods without any sense of responsibility or justification in an effort to rekindle this war, which, if it happens, will be devastating.

The day before yesterday, the government forces shelled Kifri and the surrounding area, killing or wounding a number of citizens and causing hundreds to flee the area. Following the Kurdistan front's order not to attack the government forces, the peshmerga forces withdrew from the city without offering any resistance to prevent giving the government forces any justification for continuing the murder and destruction. The Kurdistan front's forces took this position following the government attack on Kifri and its suburbs. The government's response to this responsible position, which favored peace and spared the lives of our Iraqi people, was to continue shelling with field artillery and gunships. The front's forces remained patient in the hope that the government would return to its senses and would not continue the attempt to scuttle the peace effort in Kurdistan; but this hope was dashed.

The government forces attacked the city of Sarqala when the peshmerga forces were in a defensive position. The peshmerga forces intercepted them and forced them to retreat within the city of Kifri after an eight-hour battle. The peshmerga forces inflicted serious losses on the government forces, destroying 22 tanks and one armored personnel carrier, seizing two DShK machine guns, and taking prisoner two officers and 10 soldiers.

We declare our total support for a peaceful solution of our people's just cause and renounce fighting out of a sense of responsibility. We call on the Iraqi Government to stop combat operations, including the attacks and artillery and missile bombardment of cities, and cease their provocations against the peshmergas. We are making careful efforts to reach an honorable and peaceful solution to our Kurdish people's just cause so that we can end a war which has been going on for 31 years and permit the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and other minorities—to live in peace and security. If the Iraqi Government continues its attacks and provocations, it will undoubtedly assassinate the peace effort, and we will have no alternative but to firmly and forcefully defend our land and people.

'Self-Restraint' Urged in Current Clashes

JN0710200591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Unattributed talk: "Should We Not Learn From Past Experience and Cooperate in a Spirit of Responsibility To Solve Problems?]

[Text] Dear listeners: Reports over the past two days indicate that tension in Klar and Kifri has developed into clashes and confrontation between the peshmergas of the Kurdistan Front and units of the Iraqi Army. As a result of indiscriminate artillery shelling, a number of peshmergas and citizens in those regions have been martyred. The other side must have sustained losses as well. According to the latest information, contacts between representatives of the Kurdistan Front and Army commanders in the region are under way to restore calm.

The incidents of the last two days in Kifri and Klar bring to our attention similar regrettable incidents which took place in Taqtaq and [placename indistinct]. Those incidents also took the lives of a number of innocent people.

While we express regret and sadness for the victims of these latest incidents, especially those who have fallen as a result of indiscriminate artillery shelling, we repeat what we have said earlier: Under the current circumstances, those who care for our country, for Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, and for Iraqi national unity, should demonstrate the maximum possible level of self-restraint and patience when they face problems, which are bound to arise here and there. We, however, fervently hope that no problems will ever emerge. Sincere people, and those who are concerned about our common interests and the progress of the ongoing national dialogue between the Kurdistan front and the government, should handle these problems and incidents wisely, patiently, and logically. Harsh methods, the use of arms, and strong reactions must be avoided, as they have proved useless in such cases in the past.

This does not mean, however, that such incidents, regardless of their nature, should not be investigated to determine their causes; this is necessary. But the purpose, as we have said, should be to remove the causes and to propose correct solutions to such incidents which will prevent their recurrence.

It is obvious to both sides that the principle of dialogue has enemies who consider it to be detrimental to their own purposes. These people, therefore, are likely to make trouble and to create incidents. In order to serve their own purposes or those of their masters, they, no doubt, create incidents and exasperate the situation through several methods. This is not ruled out. It is beyond any rational explanation, however, that problems and tensions should develop into confrontation and bloodshed at a time when negotiations between the central government and the Kurdistan front have made big strides and while coordination committees from both

sides exist. These committees were originally established to coordinate, cooperate, and propose suitable and acceptable solutions to any problem until negotiations reached a final result, which everyone hopes will reflect positively on the Iraqi people—the Arabs, the Kurds, and the minorities.

There should be cooperation and coordination between the committees of both sides to study the situation and to handle tension and any potential deterioration anywhere in the country. Yes, we need patience, self-restraint, and the investigation of problems; we do not need reactions or positions leading to clashes and bloodshed. We also need to inform the joint coordination committees of any abnormal situation [word indistinct] to study it and to take measures that will solve the problem. Military action or measures should not be taken.

Have those who act contrary to the criteria of the current phase of the situation forgotten that we have made big strides and that very little remains to be done to reach agreement on a radical and final solution to the problem? We, here, do not go farther than we have already gone. It is enough for us to say that we must learn from past experiences, appreciate the interests of the Iraqi people, and work to remove all obstacles and hindrances. We must solve problems arising here or there in a spirit of nationalism and responsibility and through cooperation and coordination. The precious innocent blood that has been and is being shed in regrettable incidents is an unrecoverable loss. Let everyone's only slogan be cooperation, coordination, and solution of problems in a spirit of nationalism, responsibility, and concern with the interests of the people and the homeland. It is only through this that any attempt to harm the fraternal and peaceful dialogue can be blocked and that the attempts of some people to fish in troubled water can be foiled.

Saddam Repo:tedly Executes Army General

NC0710150491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] As is his habit in dealing with his servants from the symbols of authority, our informed sources have affirmed that criminal Saddam has executed Staff Major General Yasin 'Umar 'Adil.

The executed officer served Saddam for a long time during the eight-year war with our Muslim neighbor Iran. He was commander of the so-called al-Husayn forces stationed in the marshlands, and he owned many luxury cars and three palaces in (?Karkuk), which were given to him by the criminal Saddam. [passage omitted]

Shamir Addresses Knesset Opening Session

TA0710162291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1410 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's address to the Knesset on 7 October at the opening of the Knesset's winter session—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, distinguished Knesset. The month of Tishre, which is the month of the Jewish holy days of repentance and the month of holidays and joy, has not yet passed. There is still time to send holiday greetings to the Knesset and to wish all the Knesset members, employees, and visitors, and all the people of Israel, a happy and blessed new year. Let us hope that the coming year will be a year in which the people of Israel will realize their aspirations in Eretz Yisra'el. I wish the Knesset a fruitful and successful winter session.

Mr. Chairman, it has fallen to us to live in a time when many events of great historic import have taken place in a short period. Many generations of our predecessors would probably be jealous of our good fortune to experience such exciting and uplifting events, events that were yearned for and prayed for, and that only we have lived to witness. The gathering of the Jewish diaspora and the building of Eretz Yisra'el—the two pillars of the Jewish vision—have reached unprecedented heights in the recent period. The gates of the Soviet Union are wide open and the aliyah from there is continuing steadily. The Ethiopian diaspora is disappearing. Thousands of immigrants are being absorbed in Eretz Yisra'el with open arms by the governmental institutions, by volunteer organizations, and by the general public. Since the current immigration wave began in the middle of 1989, approximately 357,000 immigrants—and may there be many more—have arrived. Out of them, 21,000 came from Ethiopia. We hope that the blessed immigration wave from the Soviet Union and the other countries of eastern Europe will continue and that the rest of the Ethiopian diaspora will immigrate to Israel soon. The Knesset members know that the government has decided to put the issue of immigration at the top of its concerns. Approximately 16 percent of the budget is devoted to immigrant absorption, which includes housing, employment, education, and welfare. Excluding debt repayment, approximately 24 percent of the budget for government operations is dedicated to immigrant absorption.

As for employment, since the start of 1990 the civilian work force has grown by approximately 164,000 people, both immigrants and veteran Israelis. Out of these, approximately 120,000 have found jobs. In other words, 44,000 have still not found a place of employment, and even though they receive the immigration basket or unemployment payments, the government is making efforts to reduce the number of unemployed and will continue to do so. That will demand a lot of work. We have a lot of work cut out for us, and the challenges are immense. There are myriad and difficult problems involved in this tremendous endeavor. There are those among us who, while busy criticizing and searching for faults, fail to see—or tend to forget—the achievements and the importance of the hour. Therefore, without ignoring objective criticism, we would be better advised to look at facts and actual deeds: From the Golan Heights to Elat, and from the Jordan Rift Valley to the coastal plain, new suburbs and neighborhoods, settlements and villages are being constructed throughout the country at a scope unprecedented since the inception of the state. Although the problem of housing for the immigrants is close to being resolved, the problem of employment is much more difficult and necessitates more time, large investments, the establishment of new factories, and the expansion of existing work places and factories in the fields of industry, commerce, and academic research. The creation of jobs is organically linked to economic growth. We have no shortage of skilled manpower. The human material arriving in Israel is composed mainly of professionals, for the most part male and female academics who are industrious and eager, who do not shirk any work, and who largely manage to overcome the difficulties of adapting to a new society.

What is required is an infusion of money and investments in all the fields I mentioned. We need investors and initiatives, both from Israelis and from overseas, that will bring money and initiative and set up in Israel industrial parks, research and development centers, and factories. The government is working to strengthen those sectors and to locate foreign companies and persuade them to set up shop in Israel. The Industry and Trade Ministry has established a new body—the Business Promotion Headquarters—with that as its task. Next month, a delegation of Israeli industrialists will leave for the United States for meetings with economists from various fields.

On the same matter, the government is making a special effort to expedite the privatization of government companies, including the sale of some shares to foreign investors, who can contribute foreign currency, expertise, and marketing contacts. Over six months ago, we informed the U.S. Government of our needs, in order to be able to finance the wave of immigrants coming to Israel. To avoid burdening the American taxpayer, we asked for no grants. We offered to find the funds in private banks with the guarantee of the administration. We did not ask for a massive debt write-off, which was done for other countries, including Egypt. The U.S. Government asked us to postpone our request by several months and we agreed to its request in spite of our pressing needs. When we were about to present the request last month, we were again asked to postpone it by several months, this time on the assertion that it could hinder the peace process. We were told that it would anger the Arabs, who have always opposed the immigration of Jews to Eretz Yisra'el. The creation of the linkage between the absorption of immigrants—a supreme humanitarian task—and a political issue, such as the

peace process, has caused us disappointment and pain. U.S. governments have throughout the years fulfilled a very significant and praiseworthy role in the struggle to open the gates of the USSR for Jews and for their emigration to Israel. They also helped to effect aliyah from Ethiopia, and that includes President Bush personally, when he was vice president. Therefore, especially great is our pain and disappointment over the fact that, this time, the U.S. Administration has seen fit to take a step that injures the deepest foundations of the Jewish and Zionist entity. I want to believe that, had the U.S. leaders known the degree of our sensitivity to this issue, and had they been aware of the scope of our enemies' struggle against Jewish aliyah to Eretz Yisra'el ever since the beginning of the century, they would have thought twice before taking the course they decided upon. I hope very much that with the completion of the deferral period at the beginning of 1992, the U.S. Administration and Congress in Washington will take joint action toward approving the guarantees, thereby assisting the inflow of immigrants and their absorption.

Mr. Chairman, our relations with the United States have known ups and downs throughout the years; however, they are based on a firm foundation of proximity and alliance, deriving from identical values, a similar regime, and a deep belief in freedom, democracy, and peace. The U.S. Administration has decided to initiate a peace process between Israel and its neighbors, based to a certain extent on the Camp David accords. It goes without saying that it would have been preferable had the Arab countries finally hearkened to our repeated calls, made ever since our War of Independence, to come and sit down with us at the negotiating table to reach a peace agreement. The very fact that the peace process requires the initiative and efforts of parties from outside the region, such as the United States and the USSR, illustrates the fact that the leaders of many Arab countries, in their hearts, have not yet accepted the existence of the State of Israel. They have not yet realized that the only way to reach a real and lasting peace arrangement is through direct negotiations. We appreciate the efforts the United States has invested in the moves promoting a peace process to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, the U.S. involvement is not an alternative to direct negotiations. Several Arab leaders have received the impression that the U.S. involvement is meant to pressure Israel. Those who believe that are mistaken. The outstanding problems can only be resolved through free negotiations at the negotiating table, in which agreements on peace and cooperation, we would like to hope, will be reached. The role of the United States should be that of an honest broker seeking ways to draw the sides closer and to bridge the gaps between them.

Mr. Chairman, every child in Israel knows that in all the wars that were forced upon us by our neighbors we were never motivated by expansionist ambitions or a desire to seize territory; however, our historic and legitimate link to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is in no way less than our link to the Galilee, Sharon, and Negev. We were forced to fight six times and to suffer heavy sacrifices to defend our existence and the well-being of our civilians. Those wars did not break out because of this or that strip of land, but because of the Arab rejection of our very existence. We shall not lend our hand to a denial of those historic facts and their attendant conclusions. We will insist on maintaining reasonable security margins that will allow a secure life in the future. This is especially vital in this part of the world, in which totalitarian regimes rule—regimes that hold the idea of democracy totally foreign and whose credibility is among the lowest in the world.

Less than a year has passed since a large part of the Arab world rejoiced when the Iraqi ruler threatened to incinerate half of Israel. We all remember the gleeful shouting on the rooftops when Iraq launched missiles at Israel's population centers. I believe that genuine stability will come to our region only after the democratization process reaches the Arab countries, and there is hardly any evidence of that for the time being. Despite the expressions of hostility, violence, and terror—which have not abated—Israel has not changed its policy and ambition to negotiate with its neighbors. And if Arab governments have agreed to sit down at the negotiating table—even if it took them 40 years—we welcome that gladly. That does not constitute any concession on their behalf, and they are not doing us any favor. I hope that their decision, if such a decision has indeed been made, stems from the recognition that direct negotiations are the only way to resolve the conflict. I also hope that when they come to negotiate with Israel, their one and only goal will be the establishment of an eternal edifice of peace and coexistence.

Israel is committed to the Camp David accords. We have accordingly held talks with the U.S. secretary of state and his aides about the following guidelines:

First, following a ceremonial opening session, bilateral and direct talks will commence with each of Israel's neighbors to reach a contractual peace agreement.

Second, we will hold talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will include representatives of the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to reach agreement on an interim arrangement for a period of five years that will constitute the implementation of the autonomy plan according to the Camp David accords. We attach great importance to the participation of Jordan in this process.

Third, we will participate in multilateral meetings on regional issues such as the resettlement of refugees, regional security, water and environmental issues, economic development, and so forth. As we made clear to our American interlocutors and as we agreed with them, at no stage will the PLO, the terrorist organization, have a foothold in the peace process. The Palestinian component in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation must be agreed upon in advance with Israel, and if the representatives at any stage declare that they were appointed by

the PLO terror organization, or that they represent it, Israel will not sit with them.

We have always opposed the internationalization of the process and convening international conferences...[Shamir is interrupted by catcalls]...in which the Arab countries would appear with their allies and supporters and try to pass decisions similar to those adopted by the automatic majority that always stood at their disposal in the United Nations. It was agreed, therefore, to convene a ceremonial opening conference of one to two days, in which the representatives of the various parties and the sponsors would make speeches, and which would later be dispersed. This opening forum would have no authority whatsoever. It is true that we were told that the conference would be able to reconvene if this was acceptable to all parties; Israel, however, for its part, declared that there was no need or justification for its continued existence for any purpose whatsoever, and that we would not support its reconvening. No conference will be able to resolve issues that the parties cannot agree upon in direct and bilateral negotiations.

Israel, for its part, is willing to hold exhaustive and uninterrupted negotiations until an agreement is achieved. The United States and the Soviet Union will fulfill the role of sponsors at the opening session of the direct negotiations. We have been told that the USSR will resume full diplomatic relations prior to the conference. We trust and believe that relations will be resumed before invitations are sent out.

It is clear to us in advance that the launching of any process to reach an arrangement will be necessarily accompanied by risks and by serious obstacles; however, we must not be deterred from making efforts to reach peace, and we must not shirk the battle for peace. We need no lecturing about peace. There is no nation on earth that desires peace more than us. The process will make no progress, however, until we know with full confidence that the path and circumstances are compatible with our concept, which is based on the Camp David accords. We will have to make certain, among other things, whether our neighbors recognize the existence of the State of Israel, whether they are willing to make true peace with us, whether they are ready to put an end to all expressions of belligerence and hostility, whether they are ending the phenomenon of terror and are liquidating terrorist bases on their territory, and whether they are granting full civil rights to their Jews, including the unconditional right to emigrate.

If our neighbors focus solely on territorial issues, we will know that this is why they joined the process and that they do not really aspire to make peace, and we shall draw the necessary conclusions. [catcalls] Our positions regarding the process are well known. The autonomy plan will be implemented in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip according to the Camp David accords. In the Golan Heights, however, Israeli law has been in force since 1981. We applied Israeli law out of the clear recognition, shared by almost all political elements in Israel, that the Golan is a vital component of Israel's defense. The situation that has prevailed for the past 10 years will continue to guide us without any change. It goes without saying that the issue of Jerusalem—and there is no East Jerusalem or West Jerusalem, but only one united Jerusalem—will not be discussed in negotiations. Jerusalem, the city of peace, will evermore remain an undivided city and the capital of Israel and the Jewish people.

We agreed to direct negotiations based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The Camp David accords stipulated the ways to implement those two decisions. The Arab countries have turned those two resolutions into an entire series of imperatives by elevating the clause on withdrawal from territories to a supreme and automatically binding decree. Those interpretations are baseless. The operational bottom line of Resolutions 242 and 338 is that negotiations are to be held for the purpose of reaching a just and durable peace. The other clauses are no more than mere guidelines. Various sides can have their own interpretations of those two clauses, and our stance, which rejects the territories-for-peace formula, has a firm foundation.

The United States, and the other countries that have been active in this regard, use the term comprehensive [preceding word in English] peace—in other words a complete resolution of the conflict. To our regret, we are still a long way from holding negotiations over such an agreement, because even if the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon take place, there are still many countries in our region that have not shown the slightest sign of readiness to hold any kind of talks with Israel, including countries that continue to help finance and arm terrorist organizations such as the PLO, and continue to take hostile and bellicose actions of various kinds. I should especially mention Iraq, Libya, and Iran.

In that regard, we have not for one moment forgotten what is happening in Iraq. Israel was one of the first to alert the world to Iraq's evil plans. It was defeated in a war but is continuing to deceive the world and concoct its plots.

If the U.S. initiative materializes, and there are no guarantees that it will, Israel will enter the process out of a sense of confidence in the justness of our position and a readiness to negotiate with our neighbors until a solution and an agreement is reached. This may prove to be a historic breakthrough, a great event that will bring hope and joy to millions. This could be an important milestone in the history of the Middle East and the people of Israel. For our part, we are doing everything to bring about the beginning of negotiations and to hold talks, while guarding our crucial interests. We shall have to act with great caution and wariness to avoid making even the slightest mistake. We are going to the conference with open eyes and an open heart. The negotiations will be long, arduous, and exhausting, and we will have to show a lot of resourcefulness, patience, and determination in maintaining our positions.

Mr. Chairman, we are still feeling the tremendous impact of the developments in the Soviet Union and the countries of East Europe over the past two years. The international community has changed drastically following the demise of the communist ideology and the concept of a centralized economy, and after the end of the cold war between the two superpower blocs. A special responsibility lies with the United States—the world's leading democratic superpower. We welcome President Bush's announcement about weapons cuts; we welcome President Bush's declaration that the shameful UN resolution from 1975, which equates Zionism with racism, should be rescinded. It is already high time to remove this stain from the international peace organization. We are deeply sorry that the Arab countries, including Egypt, which has peaceful relations with us, still oppose the repeal of this despicable resolution. This does not constitute good news for the chances of peace.

With Yugoslavia's expression of its desire to join the East European countries that have already renewed diplomatic relations with us, we have normalized relations with the entire European continent. There has also been progress on this matter with several African countries. Only the Arab world, except for Egypt, and several Islamic countries have maintained a state of alienation toward us. Perhaps it is no coincidence that those are undemocratic countries that reject the ideals of freedom and democracy that have spread throughout Europe and other continents, while bypassing them.

Mr. Chairman, even today, the defense establishment, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the other security branches are steadfastly guarding our country because our enemies continue to purchase new and dangerous weapons, and are continuing to encourage and initiate terror attacks against our citizens. The IDF has drawn the necessary conclusions from the Gulf War and is implementing those conclusions with the government's approval. The IDF and its soldiers constitute a deterrent factor against any threat to us. The IDF's strength is what permits the current efforts toward peace.

Beyond the challenges and difficulties, we must not forget for even one instant the fundamental fact that the State of Israel is developing and growing stronger daily. We still do not know if, when, and where, the peace process will begin. Let us hope that despite the difficulties and obstacles, the disappointments and fears, that the profound yearning for peace in every human being will triumph over the feelings of hatred and destruction throughout the entire world, and that the peace we desire so much will also come to our land. Knesset Members, the achievement of peace and the building of our country are the immense tasks that face the people of Israel over the coming years. Let us rise above our legitimate differences; let us grow stronger and not unnecessarily squander energy on domestic squabbles. Our strength lies in unity, not only in times of war but in periods of peace as well. Let us draw the most out of ourselves, the positive and the unifying, and live to see the State of Israel marching toward the peace we so desire, growing ever more stronger, both militarily and economically, absorbing millions of Jews, and serving as a beacon of culture and science. Today there is a fresh and uplifting meaning to the words of the ancient prophets who foresaw the events of our times and especially the ingathering of the diaspora and the rebuilding of the Jewish homeland. Thus predicted the prophet Ezekiel: "Thus says the Lord God; When I gather the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall dwell in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell securely, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God. [Ezekiel: 28; 25-26] Thank you.

'Reasonable Security Margins' Clarified

TA0710190491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In his speech, Mr. Shamir said that Israel will insist on maintaining reasonable security margins that will allow a secure life in the future. This security is particularly vital in this part of the world, where totalitarian regimes persist.

In reply to a question, the prime minister's bureau told our political correspondent Arye Golan that when the prime minister used the expression reasonable security margins, he was not referring to the territorial issue, but to matters enhancing Israel's security beyond that provided by the territories.

Opposition Leader Peres Responds

TA0710183191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1442 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Address by Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, opposition leader, at the opening of the Knesset winter session—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, distinguished Knesset. I would like to congratulate the Knesset members on their participation in this session, which is so crucial in our nation's history. Together with everyone, I pray that we be given the wisdom to follow the true path of security, peace, and aliyah. I ask this because we must choose one of two paths: We can follow either the path indicated by the government, the path of yesterdays and of yesteryears, the path of no-news, the path of let-us-accuse-everyone; or a new path that will raise Israel to a higher economic level, to a plateau in security, and to a hitherto unknown state of peace.

Knesset Members, I have heard the prime minister's address, and I wish to make a correction before I continue: The past has known a greater aliyah, a better absorption, and a broader construction drive; there is no need to exaggerate. I would like to add that the picture

painted by the prime minister is very far from representing reality. I travel in Israel almost weekly, and I see hardship in every corner. Eleven percent of the country's inhabitants are unemployed. Eleven percent! Yet we have not heard a word about that. People who deal with aliyah absorption are saying that the number of immigrants has dropped by one-half because of the failure in immigrant absorption. Young people in this country are asking: What will happen to us tomorrow? There is indescribable distress in the development towns.

What are you so proud about? What are you boasting about? About the USSR's having opened the gates? This government has only one thing to boast about—a big, enormous thing, which is also the last thing that should have been done—the settlement in the territories. That is the only thing you people are doing; that is the only thing they are drawing you into while you keep saying amen. That is the only thing that shows the least trace of policy. And where does it lead us? To the establishment of a binational state, to the establishment of binational coercion, to a Yugoslav-like condition, which is irreversible. What good is all that? Mr. Immigrant Absorption Minister, instead of investing funds in the creation of jobs; instead of investing funds in employment, Mr. Deputy Labor and Social Affairs Minister, billions upon billions are invested in the unnecessary—unnecessary—building of red roofs. [speech interrupted by catcalls] As for the rest, the government makes no decisions. It can only decide: We are settling, and to hell with the U.S. Government; we want nothing from it; we are busy....[interrupted by catcalls]

This government has appealed to the U.S. Government asking for guarantees and saying: We want green dollars, which we will not use beyond the Green Line. It also said: We will report to you; we will provide you with an accurate monthly update of what we do. You do not want to listen to the United States? Don't turn to it. Don't ask it for anything. But if you are turning to it, keep your word and report and be truthful. Because in one letter you write about 88 million, and in a committee you said—don't accuse the opposition, you yourselves said it—we are building 20,000 houses, 1,300 houses in Gaza. [sentence as heard] Now? When there is aliyah to be absorbed? When the country is in such economic distress? You have created a terrible contradiction between the cornucopia in the territories and the panhandling for housing elsewhere. What is this? Are these two separate countries? Two coffers? The territories get everything, while back home they do not? Here at home, we should stand proudly and bravely and beg the Americans? One would think you have a fan club out there.

This failure has resulted in a more serious failure, and don't try to hide it: an unprecedented jolt in U.S.-Israeli relations—for the first time ever, a crisis with the Jews and the non-Jews, the government and public opinion. Knesset Members, although it is okay to be party-oriented, relations with the United States are a defense asset. This is not politics! Relations with the United States are a political advantage. Relations with the United States are a matter of national consensus between the two nations. You are upsetting this in a crude and arrogant manner, using unheard-of words! What for? America has given us weapons free of charge. America is giving us weapons to maintain a balance. America stood at our side in our hour of isolation. The nation, the institutions, the administration, President Bush himself stood up for Israel. [catcalls]

Nobody and nothing—except for the Jewish people's own interest—are forcing us to cultivate this friendship. We are not doing it for the Americans; we are doing it for our own sakes. Insulting the President without cause and not even asking his pardon for such an insult....[changes thought] Do you think everyone is an idiot? That no one understands anything? Why is this necessary?

In political negotiations, too, this government is noted for its narrow outlook, and there has never been a narrower outlook than that. On the main issue of interpreting Resolution 242, this government came to Baker and said: Mr. Secretary, give us permission to interpret it as we understand it. Let us be on our own, alone. The Americans said: All right. This enabled the Americans to coordinate their positions on the most important issue of all with the Arabs.

And what did they want to interpret all by themselves? Matters of procedure, or rather, of stage decor. All you people want is to look good at home. Thus, you say: We will not agree to the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs. With whom has Baker been negotiating in our very sight, with our indirect consent? What are all these fantasies? And you [second person singular] have again done something unacceptable on this stage. That opening international conference, to which you agreed today, was proposed by me four years ago! At that time, you called it treason. An opening noncoercive conference that cannot reconvene without us! Where is your great achievement? And what do direct negotiations mean? Do we have direct negotiations now? Will you manage without the Americans? Where is the achievement in direct negotiations? Let us assume the Syrians come and say: Give us the Golan Heights. That is direct; so what? Do you get an answer by holding direct negotiations? Is indirectness the only thing you need to change?

I wish to state: In addition to all these failures, there is also the economic failure. Mr. Prime Minister, this is the situation: investment—nil; inflation—on the rise; unemployment—increasing; exports—not growing; your ministers fight day and night. What did the finance minister say about the construction minister? A white elephant! I want to tell you that even when gray elephants quarrel, lawns pay the price [reference to ban on garden watering]. We are all paying the price of these elephants and their fights. The trade and industry minister is an excellent, extraordinary minister. Do you know where? In Bene Beraq, in a rabbi's court.

These failures stem from one cause only; there is no other reason for them. Do you [Knesset plenum] know what they want? They want permission to declare that all the territories are in our hands. Never mind that they are not; all this is just territorial verbiage, not firm facts. You can declare a thousand times that Gaza is yours. In what way is it yours? We are more in the hands of Gaza than Gaza is in ours. This is an unrealistic declaration! We are mere policemen there! What message do you have for the young generation? That they are to be eternal border policemen in Gaza, where we will fight and patrol? That it will be more difficult to visit Gaza than Cairo? All this, after you liquidated the intifadah in two weeks, just as you had promised? All you want is to make a territorial impression, as if the territories were ours. They are not ours! There are residents in the territories, and anyone annexing the territories will be annexing the residents as well. And anyone annexing the residents will be endangering the State of Israel as a national and democratic state! This is what you have been doing.

Knesset members, this territorial verbiage does not really have the support of a majority in this Knesset. I was glad to learn that almost 50 percent of the Likud people....[changes thought] True, this survey was done by a camp, the Levi camp, and I do not know whether it is kosher or not right now, whether it was done with or without the prime minister's knowledge. There are many reasonable people in the Likud, who are not so liberal at all.

This is a failure-ridden government. Its eyes are directed to the past, but it has pretensions of being a national leader. It is leading nowhere.

We are proposing a different path: a yes to a settlement freeze—not for the sake of the Americans or the Arabs, but for Israel and its future, so that funds can be diverted to the absorption of immigrants, the reduction of unemployment, and the strengthening of our security! That, too, is necessary—more than settlement. We propose to add a political tier to Israel's military capability. We propose to invest in the right technology on the one hand, and in a map that will ensure security on the other—a map that will guarantee both security and the State of Israel's future. Such a map really can be built, because it already exists. There is a map of residents that has to be considered no less than the geographical map.

Such a map can be built upon a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation that would include the Jordanian Kingdom and allow the establishment of a demilitarized canton in Gaza and another in the West Bank, both with a link to Jordan. No alien army will be allowed to cross the Jordan River. The territories will be demilitarized. The settlers will remain where they are. The traffic will flow freely. Above all else, united Jerusalem will remain forever the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty.

We propose that Israel's defense concept include the regional dimension and the range of missiles, not merely the range of mortars. I do not accept the defense minister's promise that in 10 years he will close the skies hermetically and not one missile will fall on us. How will he do it? The region should be viewed in its entirety and truth should be told: We have problems. [A Knesset member calls out: "How will you do this?"] I will do it by creating defensible ranges, not only defensible borders; by weapon nonproliferation agreements; by political ties; by creating an interest in a regional economy. It is preferable for us to attain peace before zealots attain nuclear weapons. It is possible to achieve nuclear capability, Mr. Prime Minister, as we have seen in Iraq, before a democratic regime can. While you sit there waiting for democracy, they build missiles with nonconventional warheads! What hope can you offer the nation?

We are convinced that Israel needs an economy that is not founded entirely on alms and guarantees and preaching; an economy that has new products and services; an economy capable of flowing outside Israel's limited market, of flowing into Middle East and international markets. Israel's de facto size will be determined by its economic size, moral fortitude, and the justness of its path, and not by lofty but empty and meaningless words uttered by certain speakers in this country.

Israel's agriculture needs water. Water can be brought from Turkey, or sea water can be desalinated. If the Middle East is stable, tourists will come. Our industry needs investments and markets. Markets will open to Israel only when the conflict is ended. What have the Europeans been saying to us? Make peace, and European space will open to you. If we make peace, the Middle East space, too, will open to us. Peace is not the final goal; the true goal should be a new Middle East that will allow nations to start relaxing. In 1948, we established a state capable of surviving in a hostile region. Today we need a region that will allow our country and every other country to exist without hostility. Many people think this is an unattainable vision, and they ask me: What are you talking about? The truth is that we can move on toward this vision through interim economic arrangements, in parallel with interim political arrangements. We can start right now, through the cessation of the Arab boycott, through the cessation of the Arab boycott tomorrow morning! This will create tens of thousands of jobs for immigrants and for the unemployed, bring in investments, change the climate. It is possible to reach agreement on a general plan for water and tourism and to lay the foundation for a common market in the more distant future.

Knesset Members, as a man who has on many opportunities spoken with numerous world statesmen, including Arab statesmen, I am telling you: The world has never been more ready to help Israel to stop fighting in wars and to set up a new economic and political structure than it is today! They, the Arabs, need that too. If we just take the first step, we will have more than a defense policy; we will have both a defense policy and an economic and political policy. With it we will be able to solve the immigrants' employment problems and the educated peoples' quest for professional challenge. We will be able

to grant genuine equality of opportunity to the state's Arab inhabitants and offer our young generation a fascinating, tangible, Jewish vision in the spirit of the prophets. The Jewish nation, like its Arab neighbors, will be able to turn to the true, great prophesy of liberation from rusty swords for the sake of new plowshares.

So far, Mr. Prime Minister, you have brought unemployment and a crisis with the United States upon the country. You have no plan of action beyond the ceremonial opening. We can call you a ceremonial opening, if you like it so much. [sentence as heard]

The nation has an alternative! A majority of the Knesset favors the alternative! A large part of the Likud members are for it! And you people represent a stubborn, obsolete minority dating back to our grandfathers' generation. You are a gang of extremists!

In the absence of replies to the current problems, we are praying for a different tomorrow. We will win; we will achieve it. Until then, we will vote no confidence in the government.

Reply on Memo of Understanding Due 'This Week'

TA0710193891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The U.S. Administration will this week receive Israel's comments on the draft of the memorandum of understanding drawn up by Washington in preparation for the peace conference. Israel rejects several clauses in the draft, including, among other things, a new demand that a Palestinian representative be allowed to make a speech on behalf of his delegation at the conference's opening session. Until now it was thought that only a Jordanian representative would speak on behalf of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has also learned that the increasing U.S. pressure on Israel is also being manifested in a slowdown of Washington's efforts to recruit a majority in favor of rescinding the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. The Israeli delegation to the United Nations reported to Jerusalem that there is still no certain majority for a repeal of the resolution, and that in order to garner this majority the United States has to make more intense efforts on the issue, as was promised by President Bush.

'Yes or No' Seen Not Forthcoming

TA0810095091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Israel wants the opening session of the political negotiations to be held on the level of heads of state and to be personally sponsored by the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union, with the participation of regional leaders. This was reported last night by political sources in Jerusalem.

The sources said that a proposal in this spirit was broached recently by Ambassador Zalman Shoval during his contacts with the administration. Shoval noted that the prime minister wishes to head the Israeli delegation to the opening session. The sources expressed their view that the Israeli proposal is meant to 'focus attention on the Arab countries' readiness to negotiate with Israel and to underscore a special commitment to this readiness as manifested by the personal participation of the regional leaders.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that they do not know of such an appeal. Israeli sources in Washington also denied the report last night. The Foreign Ministry has reported that one of the reasons the proposal was raised may have been the intention to push Foreign Minister David Levi out of the center of political activity, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister's Office has "taken over" the key matters related to working out the Israeli position in anticipation of the negotiations.

The administration has not yet responded to the Israeli proposal. Jerusalem believes it created some confusion. In contacts to date, it was agreed that the opening session would be held on the "ministerial level," the U.S. assumption being that the various countries would be represented by their foreign ministers. Jerusalem does not rule out the possibility that the Arab leaders have rejected U.S. attempts to gauge a possibility along the lines of Shoval's proposal.

It was also reported in Jerusalem last night that Israel has no intention of replying with a "yes or no" to the latest U.S. draft memorandum of understanding, which was relayed to Jerusalem on Saturday. The United States has asked Israel to give its answer as soon as possible to the question of whether it accepts the proposed formula, even though administration officials meanwhile again intimated that they believe Israel should forgo a memorandum of understanding and make do with a unilateral U.S. letter of assurances. In fact, the United States requested an Israeli reply by yesterday, but the prime minister's bureau decided not to "comply" with the dictated time limit. [passage omitted]

Comment Questions Need for Memorandum

TA0710130891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Needs Such a Memorandum?"]

[Text] The disappointment Jerusalem felt when it read the draft memorandum of understanding the Americans sent here is understandable and justified. All the assurances we believed were in our pocket have vanished.

The Americans want us to know—and to admit that we know—that they do not recognize the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights; the Americans want us to know—and the memorandum of understanding to

say—that Israel will have no right to veto the composition of the Palestinian delegation. In addition, they want us to know that if, once the clarifications have been made, Israel decides not to come to the conference, it will be jeopardizing the future of its relations with the United States.

This is rape in broad daylight.

But, lo and behold: Despite its disappointment and the intolerable conditions it is facing, the Israeli Government continues to insist that it needs a memorandum of understanding before it agrees to take part in the peace conference.

The question is: Who needs such a memorandum of understanding?

On certain issues, we have U.S. promises that contradict what is being offered now.

For example, regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation, we have an explicit promise that "Israel will not be asked to negotiate with anyone with whom it cannot sit." Now, they want to backtrack on this promise in the memorandum of understanding. If, however, we waive the memorandum, we will still have the promise—theoretically, at least.

The Americans may break their promise, but then we will have the "underdog" consolation that the promise was broken by them and not us....

Even this is preferable to the sacrifice at the altar which they are preparing for us in the memorandum of understanding.

IDF, Defense Components To Move to Jerusalem

TA0710135391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has instructed the various defense establishment departments and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to draw up a joint staff working paper, together with the Jerusalem Municipality and the Finance Ministry, to examine the possibility of moving Defense Ministry and IDF offices to Jerusalem, including the 'Atarot industrial zone, to bolster Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel and to demonstrate Israel's sovereignty over the city. This was learned from reliable security sources.

A meeting was held yesterday in the defense minister's office with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek; 'Amos Mar-Hayim, the municipality's director general; Treasury officials; and representatives from the defense establishment and the IDF, presided over by Major General 'Amram Mitzna', head of the Planning Branch.

Minister Arens said at the meeting that it is in Israel's interest to move functional defense establishment bodies to Jerusalem to strengthen the city's status as capital of Israel.

One of the issues that was discussed at the meeting was the possible transfer of such bodies as the National Defense College, the office of the coordinator of government activities in the territories, the Youth and Nahal Department, and the IDF's Defense and Staff College.

Kollek said that he would prefer that some of those bodies move to 'Atarot's industrial area to strengthen the place, which has suffered gravely during the intifadah and has consequently been abandoned by many businessmen.

The defense minister and the participants in the meeting agreed with Kollek that 'Atarot and other parts of Jerusalem ought to be strengthened.

At the end of the discussion it was decided that all the groups should participate in drafting the staff work. This work will be coordinated by the Jerusalem Development Administration, a subsidiary of the municipality.

At the end of the staff work, the offices mentioned in the meeting will, with Finance Ministry assistance, move to Jerusalem.

Defense establishment sources said last night that the transfer of large components of the defense establishment and the IDF to the Israeli capital is very significant, for two reasons. For one thing, the IDF will demonstrate greater presence in the capital, as hundreds of officers begin to commute to Jerusalem for work, to cite but one example. Second, it is very important politically because Jerusalem is the heart of Israel.

The defense establishment sources added it is not inconceivable that, once the staff work is completed, a decision will be made to move additional bodies to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Municipality sources confirmed that such a debate was held in the Defense Ministry and that Mayor Kollek supports the plan.

They also noted that at the end of the staff work a decision may be made to move more IDF and defense establishment bodies to Jerusalem, apart from those that were mentioned in the current discussion.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi on U.S. Assurances

JN0710134891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi returned to the country after a tour abroad amid reports that they will be interrogated by the police. The two will later leave for Washington to meet with U.S. Secretary of State

James Baker. Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi held the following interview with Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi:

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni returned to the country last evening from Paris. A senior Israeli police officer told them that they would be summoned for interrogation on whether they had traveled to Algeria recently to attend meetings of the Palestine National Council. We asked Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi about the assurances agreed on with the U.S. Administration:

Concerning what we have reached, the letter of assurances is still under preparation and change, and at present we are working on the third draft. Actually, there are basic agreements concerning the objectives of the peace process, Resolutions 242 and 338, and how to deal with the Palestinian people's rights. All these need further development.

Is the letter of assurances provided by the U.S. Administration satisfactory? Faysal al-Husayni says:

We have not yet received the letter of assurances. The letter of assurances is still under study. When we reach the stage when we are satisfied with the contents of this letter, we will receive it.

On the expected meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says:

There is a meeting this week with Secretary Baker in the United States. The points we are working on at present deal with halting settlement, the question of East Jerusalem at the conference in terms of representation and content, and the question of the Palestinian people's right to self- determination.

Reliable sources in Amman said consultations are under way there between the Jordanian Government and Palestinian officials to form the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, and there are reports that Baker will extend the invitation to Jordan to attend the peace conference even if no agreement is reached on the formation of the delegation or if the PLO fails to meet the Jordanian conditions. On this subject Faysal al-Husayni says:

Mr. Baker is fully aware that the core of the problem is the Palestine question, and that without solving the Palestine question such a conference will have no meaning. He also knows that there will be no conference for solving the Palestine question without the Palestinians. Such reports are merely throwing sand in the eyes.

Press reports and diplomatic sources said that the peace conference is expected to convene late this month or early next month, and that the invitations will be extended to the concerned parties 10 days before the convening of the conference. We asked Dr. 'Ashrawi if it can be said that the U.S. Administration has responded [istajabat] to all the demands they presented during their first meeting with Secretary Baker?

No, it is difficult to say this. The U.S. Administration has responded to some demands, and has not responded to others. There are demands to which it has partially responded, and we are in need of more clarifications. Work is still under way on these issues.

On the stage reached by the negotiations between Jordan and the Palestinians on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, Faysal al-Husayni says:

The Palestinian-Jordanian talks are proceeding well. What is important in these negotiations is not the question of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, but the nature of Palestinian-Jordanian relations in the future, and how the two sides view the peace process itself; then how to coordinate between the Palestinian and the Jordanian delegations, whether through dual representation or through a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. All these issues are currently being discussed in Amman and no final decision has been made; but the more understanding there is, the clearer the U.S. stance becomes, and it becomes more possible to reach coordination formulas on a higher level with Jordan.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday denied that he had given permission to Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi to travel to Algeria. On this al-Husayni says:

If I want to go to Algeria I would not ask permission from Shamir.

U.S. Moves Seen Affecting Likud, Labor Roles

TA0710141491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Oct 91 p 9

[Commentary by Daniyel Ben-Simon: "Baker is the Main Opposition"]

[Text] Many of us have recently mourned the disappearance of the main opposition. On second thought, however, we have nothing to bewail. The main opposition has shrunk back to make way for one doing a better and more efficient job: none other than dear Jim Baker.

Greater Israel has not had such a strong-willed and cruel enemy since the Six-Day War. All those who have previously tried to indulge in similar dreams of bringing about comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arabs on a wide-ranging territorial basis have been forced to admit their naivete and withdraw. This time it looks as if we must deal with a formidable adversary, who does not easily flinch at the shrill cries emanating from the government compound in Jerusalem. The brutal campaign Baker conducted with the help of his buddy Bush to foil the loan guarantee issue is an apt example of the steadfastness and determination of Eretz Yisra'el's enemies.

In some respects Baker acts as the sole leader of the Israeli opposition. Ever since the Labor Party bolted the national unity government, Baker has held the reins of

Israel's alternative foreign policy and easily managed to outshine the main opposition leaders.

This change has both positive and negative ramifications. Let us begin with the positive ones:

The Labor Party and the left as a whole have failed to convince the public to support the notion of a settlement based on "territories for peace." Although most polls indicate that the majority is inclined to return territories in exchange for real peace, Labor Party leaders have not been able to translate this readiness into Knesset seats. Its leaders have always known, on the basis of their talks with Arab leaders, that peace would never prevail in the region without the return of territory. And still, instead of taking an unequivocal stand on the matter, they preferred to deliver to the public a vague and confused message—that while it is necessary to return territories, in fact it is not necessary to return all the territories; that while it is necessary to talk to the Palestinians, it is actually not necessary to talk to their real representatives; that it is necessary to discuss the Golan Heights, but not really return them; that settlement activity should cease, but that it could still continue secretly and deceitfully. It thus happened that the Labor Party presented itself as the party of peace, but still adhered fervently to its three famous noes: no Palestinian state, no return to the 1967 borders, and no negotiations with the PLO.

Deep inside, the Labor Party wanted to tell the public the truth—that peace with only noes is impossible—but it thought the public was not mature enough to digest this. It therefore continued to feed the public lies and half-truths. Meanwhile, it told the truth to others, in particular the Americans. It was therefore an easy matter for them to assume Labor's job. Baker showed up and, for all intents and purposes, told Labor this: Anything you can do, I can do instead of you, and do it better, too. Just do not stand in my way and spoil my game. Do not surprise me with all sorts of patriotic declarations of support for Shamir and the settlements.

This is in fact what happened. With the exception of some woefully weak declarations by the heads of the phantom opposition that the loan guarantee issue should not be linked to a settlement freeze, it sat on the sidelines and watched rather gleefully as Shamir and the reinforcement Labor contracted from the United States—or, if you wish, Labor's alter-ego—engaged in a battle of the giants. Labor's job of telling the Israelis the truth was being done by others.

Thus, through Baker's generous help, we have reached a discussion of the most substantive aspects of the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

As we said before, this situation also has negative implications. Leaving the determination of Israel's borders to a foreign government will deprive the country of its ability to conduct its own affairs, even the most crucial ones. The issues Israel faces are not surfacing out of a democratic argument between the parties on the country's future and image, as was the case when France was asked about Algeria. Matters are being virtually dictated by the United States. They are not the result of an Israeli political decision.

In that sense, Israel is no different from Syria and Jordan, whose joining the peace conference depends on the personal decision of their leaders. The difference is that in those countries no one is bothered by dictates as long as they serve the goal of driving Israel out of the territories. In Israel, on the other hand, this is a decision with far-reaching import for its borders; it is a decision that will shape the country's future. It is sad to see the Labor Party out of the picture, becoming an irrelevant factor in the most central issue the country has faced since its establishment.

In the long term, however, the Labor Party may gain from this temporary retreat. The Likud, which will go to the peace conference with the Arab countries, will win respect—and, more importantly, votes—before the next elections. Yet the conference most probably carries the seed of the Likud's collapse. The conference will lead to a head-on collision between the need to compromise according to U.S. instructions and the Likud's anachronistic platform. Ari'el Sharon and his ilk will raise hell. The Likud Central Committee will be abuzz. Microphones will be flying all over the place, and there will be a lot of fistfights and beatings. The Likud is aware of this horrific scenario, which is why its leaders are tempted to call early elections next spring, before all hell breaks loose.

The public may reach the conclusion that the Likud is incapable of exploiting the political opportunity in the region and that it is acting to abort the possibility of peace. It is therefore worthwhile to salvage peace and relations with the United States; it is worthwhile to lure the Labor Party out of its hiding place and prompt it to take upon itself the mission of making peace. One can hardly expect this to happen before the next elections, but perhaps by 1996 the Labor Party will turn into the only lifesaver for peace, the economy, and aliyah. If this happens, credit will go to that imported backup player, Baker, who was gracious enough to step into Labor's shoes and do its job during its most difficult hour.

Construction of New Apartments in Golan Reported

TA0610184091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] The construction of 1,482 apartments was begun this year on the Golan Heights, and infrastructure development continues. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that this was reported in a meeting between Economics and Planning Minister David Magen and the Golan Heights settlers committee.

Disappointment With Outcome of German Aid Talks

TA0410114491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Oct 91 p A9

[Report by Ori Nir and Daniyel Dagan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It has been learned from Germany that the two days of talks between senior Israeli and German officials failed to yield an agreement on the Israeli request for German aid for the absorption of immigrants. The officials—Finance Ministry Director General Shalom Zinger and his German counterpart—met in Bonn this week.

Israeli sources expressed disappointment with the outcome of the talks, saying that at this stage nothing has been achieved. They noted, however, that the talks will be resumed and that Germany has not rejected the Israeli request, but merely deferred the handling of the matter.

Israel has requested German credit of about 10 billion Deutsche marks needed for the absorption of immigrants. The discussions are expected to be resumed next month, when German Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i attend an IMF conference in Singapore.

The Israeli request is based, among other factors, on the premise that East Germany has never compensated Holocaust victims. Germany, which yesterday celebrated the first anniversary of its reunion, has hinted that it will be ready to compensate Israel in some way.

Bundestag Foreign Committee Chairman Hans Starkmann told HA'ARETZ last night that the Israeli request is well-founded and that it is being carefully studied. He explained that Germany has to consider broad political factors. In this context he mentioned the peace process, the controversy between Washington and Jerusalem on the guarantees issue, and Bonn's appreciable aid commitments to East European countries.

Recently Bonn has repeatedly denied reports alleging that it had been subject to pressure from Washington to delay all aid to Israel or to make it contingent on a cessation of settlement activity in the occupied territories.

Sharon Calls for Primaries To Elect Likud Head

TA0410123291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has suggested in the Knesset Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement that the Likud candidate for prime minister be elected in primaries. All those eligible to vote would be registered Likud members. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Minister Sharon proposed that Likud Knesset members also be elected through primaries.

Territories Arabs Banned From Jerusalem 7-8 Oct

TA0610203691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Arabs from the territories will be denied entry to Jerusalem from tomorrow morning at 0400 until Wednesday morning. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that this step was taken as part of the police force's deployment prior to the anniversary of the Temple Mount riots on Tuesday.

Our correspondent reports that tonight hundreds of policemen will begin a 48-hour state of alert in Jerusalem.

Committee Chairman Responds to U.S. Letter

JN0810095391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 91 pp 20, 16

["A Standpoint" column by Muhammad al-Nahhas, chairman of the committee of those harmed by the U.S. blockade of the port of al-'Aqabah: "The U.S. Ambassador and U.S. Aid to Jordan"]

[Text] Esteemed chief editor, greetings:

I have read what his excellency the U.S. ambassador wrote in his "letter to the editor" published on page 4 of AL-DUSTUR on 6 October 1991—the article in which he attempted to show the Jordanian citizen the magnitude of the "U.S. generosity" lavished on all of us. He concluded by saying that "the future of our two countries in the region lies together."

Before looking at this "U.S. generosity," I would like to pose the following question to the chief editor: Do diplomatic norms, of which I am totally unaware, permit a foreign ambassador to address the citizens of a host country through the country's media?

It might be better for us to start by correcting the most important figure contained in the U.S. ambassador's letter. His excellency the ambassador said: "Since 1952, the United States has provided nearly $1,085 billion [The ambassador's letter, as published in the JORDAN TIMES in English on 5 October, gives the figure as $1.85 billion. AL-DUSTUR's translation of the ambassador's letter into Arabic on 6 October gives the figure as $1,085 billion] to expand Jordan's economic base," etc. What is correct is that overall U.S. aid provided to Jordan over the past 40 years has not exceeded $1 billion. This aid has not reached $1,085 billion, the figure provided by his excellency the ambassador. Thus, it becomes clear that his excellency the ambassador multiplied the figure reflecting the aid provided to Jordan only one thousand times. The only acceptable explanation is that the figure provided by the ambassador is the result of a typographical error.

If we assume that overall U.S. aid to Jordan over the past 40 years totals $1,085 million, this means that the average annual U.S. aid provided to Jordan is approximately $27 million. To show how immense and significant for the Jordanian economy this aid was, I would like to note the following two facts:

The first is that in contrast with the $27 million in annual aid provided to Jordan, half of which was returned to the U.S. Treasury as payments for services and expenses, the United States provided Israel with more than $3 billion in annual aid. That is to say that U.S. aid to Jordan was less than one percent of U.S. aid granted to Israel. So, now you can imagine how concerned the United States been for supporting the Jordanian economy, developing its private sector, increasing growth rates, and bringing about equilibrium in this economy.

The second fact is that Jordan has sustained losses as a result of the U.S. blockade of al-'Aqabah Port in excess of $350 million in the year beginning on 20 August 1990. This means that the United States gave us $27 million every year, and took back from us in a single year what it gave us in 13 years, not to mention the interest on the amounts paid us.

This is U.S. aid to Jordan, given to us with a finger of the left hand, and taken back later by both hands, under the threats of the U.S. warships that are besieging our single port.

The worst thing in his excellency the ambassador's letter was contained in the last line: "American aid, coupled with Jordanian skilled manpower, is proof to me that the future of our two countries in this region lies together." This conclusion runs contrary to the Arab traditional wisdom that maintains that the end of a letter should be its sweetest part.

Sir, we are grateful for the U.S. aid. However, this aid cannot make the United States a partner in the region's future. This region is not up for sale, regardless of the poverty, hunger, blockade, and aggression plaguing its peoples. This region, which can never be apportioned, has always been Arab and will remain so until God inherits the earth and all that is on it.

Parliament Calls For al-Masri Resignation

NC0710123691 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Amman, Oct 7 (AFP)—More than half the 80 members of the Jordanian parliament on Monday called for the resignation of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and his government, according to a document obtained by AFP. A statement, signed by 49 deputies, charged that the government was "no longer capable of meeting current challenges" and had lost their confidence.

Al-Masri last week reshuffled his cabinet, accepting the resignations of four ministers opposed to a Middle East peace conference, including Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

According to the Jordanian Constitution, a request for a confidence vote requires the backing of 10 MPs. But parliament here is currently in recess and a debate on the future of the government could not take place before December 1.

Twenty-two deputies from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood signed the document, along with 18 from the Destourian movement and nine from other tendencies. "The government cannot turn a deaf ear to an appeal from so many deputies who have lost confidence in it, even if the appeal cannot be acted on immediately," insisted independent MP Layth Shubaylat.

Parliamentary sources said as many as 55 deputies could eventually put their names to the statement. They added that parliamentary speaker 'Abd al-Lafig 'Arabiyyat was to receive a copy of the document and would then officially inform al-Masri of its contents.

More on Resignation Petition

JN0710130391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The absolute majority in the Jordanian House of Representatives has decided to withdraw its confidence from Tahir al-Masri's government and called on it to resign, several days after al-Masri carried out a limited cabinet reshuffle. Forty-nine deputies from different blocs submitted a memorandum, of which our radio obtained a copy, calling on the government to resign after describing it as incapable of tackling the requirements of the current stage on the domestic and foreign levels. The deputies belong to the Constitutional Bloc, the Muslim brothers, in addition to some independent Islamic deputies, and the Democratic Alliance.

Although the memorandum at present does not pose a direct threat to the government in view of the fact that the House of Representatives is in recess, it is an instrument of political pressure. The deputies have the right as of the beginning of the forthcoming ordinary session, which is scheduled for 1 December, to discuss a motion of no confidence in a constitutional manner, and they need 41 votes, or the absolute majority to defeat it.

Independent Islamist deputy Layth Shubaylat commented on the increasing opposition to the government by saying: The prime minister cannot ignore the demands of the majority of deputies who have withdrawn their confidence from the government, even if this does not lead to the constitutional defeat of the government at present.

Resignation Issue Analyzed

JN0810090891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Fifty members of the Lower House of Parliament Monday called on the government of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to resign, saying it no longer enjoyed their confidence.

A statement signed by leftists, Muslim Brotherhood and Constitution Bloc members said: "The government of Mr. Tahir al- Masri is unable to confront the requirements of the current phase, both on the local and international level, and therefore the undersigned announce that this government does not enjoy their confidence and are demanding its resignation.

But the deputies, who included the members of Jordan's two largest parliamentary blocs, had widely different reasons for signing the petition.

Twenty-three Muslim Brotherhood deputies and four of their independent allies oppose Middle East talks and advocate Islamic Jihad as the only means of liberating all of Palestine. The 18- member Constitution Bloc of former ministers and pro-establishment figures backs the peace process but says the government is too weak to handle the country.

The statement is likely to put pressure and demoralise the government but it cannot have any legal implications as Parliament is currently in recess. Even if an extraordinary session was called to discuss the subject no final vote on confidence in the government can be taken during such session.

Although there was no official government reason, cabinet sources said they did not understand how the Constitution Bloc could fall into a trap set up by others (parliamentary groups) since this implied opposition to the peace process and the national Jordanian congress, scheduled to be held in Amman on Oct. 10 which is expected to back Jordan's political course in favour of a peaceful settlement.

While the leaders of the Constitution Bloc did not agree with this analysis, a number of members said their group's move went too far and was not in the best interest of the country, even though they signed on.

By Monday evening there appeared to be a rift in the Constitution Bloc ranks as the leader of the bloc insisted all its 18 members adhered to the petition while some other members of the same bloc disavowed the petition describing it as "not final, flimsy and not in accordance with an agreement among the Constitutional Bloc members."

The leader of the Constitution Bloc, Dhuqan al-Hindawi, told the Jordan Times that he was not in Amman Monday morning (when the signature were collected) but that he stuck by his bloc's declared position in a communique published Sunday that made the same call (on the government to resign) as the more broad-based petition of Monday.

One Constitution Bloc member, who requested anonymity, charged that "the Monday petition went further than the group's own statement on Sunday by contending that the Sunday communique did not criticised the government's handing of the peace issue and efforts for holding the Middle East peace conference planned for later this month.

"It can be understood from Monday's statement, by its referral to the government's inability to meet 'requirements on the... international level,' that we are against the peace conference, when in fact we are not," said one of the dissident members of the bloc, "Furthermore by co-signing the statement with groups opposed to the peace process we are giving the impression that we are against peace and are reluctant to attend the national congress called by His Majesty the King for Thursday, when in fact we are not," the deputy continued." We are voting against confidence in the al-Masri government because the prime minister did not treat us fairly and did not take us seriously when he reshuffled his cabinet on Thursday. To take it beyond that therefore is wrong."

Mr. al-Hindawi and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, another prominent leader of the bloc, both said it was wrong to assume they opposed either conference by joining forces with the Muslim Brotherhood and ultra nationalists and leftists in signing the statement. "We stick by what we said in our (Sunday) communique on the peace issue," said Mr. al-Rawabidah." And what is in Monday's joint petition does not contradict our original communique," he stressed.

The "misunderstanding" between the two opposing views in the bloc over the involvement or non-involvement in Monday's petition, as one deputy put it, was because the bloc had held a meeting the night before and signed the bloc's communique and handed the responsibility of further measures to their leader, Mr. al-Hindawi.

"We gave our leader the jurisdiction to use our signatures as he sees fit, but within the guidelines stated in our communique and discussed in our meetings," a member of the bloc told the Jordan Times.

Until mid-day Monday, a number of Constitution Bloc members were not sure whether Mr. al-Hindawi had authorised the incorporation of their names on the petition and kept silent on the subject.

However, later in the day it became apparent that Mr. al-Hindawi was not present at the morning meeting in Parliament during which the signatures were collected.

Several independent deputies told the Jordan Times that the intention of the organisers of the petition was to send a protest message against Thursday's congress which, they contend, "could sidestep the legislative authority and go over the head of Parliament to address the peace question."

Muhammad Abu-'Alim, a member of the Constitution Bloc, categorically denied that his bloc had such an intention and that it "was in total support of the King and the Thursday meeting."

According to parliamentary sources, deputies 'Abdallah 'Akaylah (Brotherhood) and Layth Shubaylat (independent), who along with their Islamist colleagues are opposed to peace negotiations, were the driving force behind Monday's petition.

It was not clear Monday how the government would handle the growing tension with the 50 deputies, but observers and analysts said that, short of resigning, Mr. al-Masri held several options, the easiest of which seemed to be a mending of fences between the Constitution Bloc and the government.

Individuals on both sides had proposed this solution as a viable option but there was no clear indication that either the government or the Constitution Bloc would make an official move towards that end although nothing was ruled out.

Another option cited by the analysts was the King's prerogative to dissolve Parliament and call for new national elections.

"Alternatively," said one analyst, "it is possible that the leadership of the Constitution Bloc has forced this showdown with the government in order to bring it down and replace it with another in which they can be major partners."

'Unprecedented' Opposition Noted

JN0710121891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Excerpt] Tahir al-Masri's government is now facing parliamentary opposition unprecedented in the history of consecutive Jordanian governments. A meeting took place yesterday at parliament comprising a large number of deputies who sought to coordinate their opposition to Tahir al-Masri's government, now that the number of deputies opposing it is much higher than the absolute majority needed in accordance with the constitution to withhold confidence in the government.

The meeting comprised representatives of the Islamic Bloc—the Muslim Brotherhood—the Constitutional Bloc, the Democratic Alliance, and some independents.

Reports said that the deputies who attended the meeting plan to issue a joint statement to announce withholding confidence in the government—which is a moral rather than constitutional withholding of confidence; that is, it does not oblige the government to resign. It is only a position in advance of the next ordinary session of parliament, when ten deputies can suggest voting on confidence in the government.

The recent ministerial change in Tahir al-Masri's government was a direct cause for the increased parliamentary opposition. The opposition now stands, by a simple calculation, as follows:

1. The Islamic Bloc, the Muslim Brotherhood: 23 deputies.
2. The Constitutional Bloc: 18 deputies.
3. Independents: 4 deputies.
4. The Democratic Alliance: 4 deputies.

The number of deputies who announced their opposition to the government is now 48, given that the majority needed to withhold confidence in the government is 41.

The number of deputies who oppose the government could increase since some ministers have not yet declared their position, particularly the ministers who resigned recently: Dr. 'Abdallah al- Nusur, Salim al-Zu'bi, and Muhammad Faris al-Tarawnah. [passage omitted]

Profiles of New Cabinet Members Published

JN0510083891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following are the profiles of the ministers who joined Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's government in Thursday's reshuffle:

Foreign Minister Dr Kamil Abu-Jabir:

Dr. Abu-Jabir was born at al-Yadudah on the outskirts of Amman in 1932. He completed his secondary school education at the Bishop's School in Amman before travelling to the United States where he studied at Syracuse University in New York and obtained a bachelor degree in political science. In 1965 he obtained a doctorate degree in political science from the same university. He went to Princeton for post doctorate studies. Dr. Abu-Jabir taught at a number of American universities, and in 1969 he joined the University of Jordan before becoming minister of national economy in 1973. Dr. Abu-Jabir returned to teaching at the University of Jordan in 1974 and became dean of the faculty of economy and administrative sciences. Later he was appointed as executive director of the Queen 'Alia Social Welfare Fund and then chairman of the World Affairs Council. He is a member of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. Dr. Abu-Jabir, has written many books, on political issues, is a prominent columnist who had written for many newspapers including the Jordan Times. He is married with two daughters.

Minister of State Dr. Qasim 'Ubaydat:

Born at Kufur Sum in 1935, Dr 'Ubaydat studied in Jordan and later obtained a bachelor degree in medicine from Yugoslavia and became a cardiologist. He won a seat in the Lower House of Parliament in the latest parliamentary election in 1989 representing the constituency o al-Ramthah in north Jordan. Dr. 'Ubaydat served as minister of labour in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs 'Izz-al-Din al-Tamimi:

Born in Hebron on the occupied West Bank in 1928, Shaykh al-Tamimi studied in Hebron and then went to Cairo where he obtained a bachelor degree from al-Azhar University in Islamic law. He then worked as a teacher and later as director of the preaching department at the Ministry of Awqaf and also underscretary of the same ministry before being appointed to the post of dean of al-Quds College. Before the reshuffle Mr. al-Tamimi had been serving as the Kingdom's mufti. He has many works in Islamic education.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Afairs and the Environment 'Abd-al Razzaq Tubayshat:

Dr. Tubayshat was born near Irbid in 1939 and later obtained a bachelor degree in medicine from Istanbul University before practising medicine with the Jordanian Armed Forces and later as public health doctor for Irbid Municipality for eight years. Later he opened his own clinic in Irbid and served as Irbid mayor until his new appointment.

Minister of Information Mahmud al-Sharif:

Mr. al-Sharif was born in 1925 and obtained his bachelor degree in English literature from Cairo University in 1947. He later pursued his higher studies in media affairs in New York. Mr. al-Sharif first worked for Radio Jordan before founding al-Manar Arabic daily in 1960 in Amman. Mr. al-Sharif became chief editor of al-Dustur daily in 1967. He also worked in Qatar between 1968 and 1974 before returning to al-Dustur where he had been serving as chief editor until early this year. He is married with three sons and two daughters.

Preservation of National Unity, Cohesion Urged

JN0810100191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Our National Unity Is Our Strong Fortress in Time of Difficulties"]

[Text] All visible and substantial signs and proof in Jordan's land of mobilization and steadfastness indicate that this delicate and difficult stage through which the homeland and the Arab region are passing necessitates first entrenching national unity among the sons of the one Jordanian family because consolidating and deepening national unity is a national and pan-Arab task necessitated by Jordan's internal circumstances as well as the region's circumstances and external challenges.

Jordan is mainly concerned with the current peace efforts aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and resolving the Palestine question which is the core of this conflict. This necessitates the cohesion of the internal front and the rallying of all political and popular organizations and forces behind the wise leadership of King Husayn, especially since the democratic atmosphere which Jordan enjoys can consolidate the national unity on a principled basis that gives priority to the country's security and stability.

Jordan has decided to participate in a process conducive to a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. Its delegation should go to the peace conference supported by the confidence of the Jordanian family in accordance with the constants of Jordan's principled position. The delegation should derive its strength, determination, and ability to adhere to the constants of its position from the strong and cohesive internal front whose basis is the strong and fateful cohesion between the leadership and the popular base.

The peace battle which Jordan will pursue, alongside its brothers in the Arab frontline states, will be a difficult

and fierce one, and it may be a long battle that necessitates mobilizing all capabilities and political and legal expertise in service of the Arab side in the peace negotiations, in a manner that politically and morally consolidates the Arab cards at all levels.

Hence, it should be said that this difficult stage necessitates keeping away from political one-upmanship and to be more aware of and alert to any attempt to undermine our internal front and weaken our national unity which is our strong fortress at the time of difficulties.

'Israeli Occupation Authorities' Release Prisoner

NC0710162491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Israeli occupation authorities today freed a Lebanese prisoner, George Fu'ad Yazbik from the town of al-Na'imah, who was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the Lebanese-Israeli border. Yazbik looked pale and exhausted and did not make any statement.

Syria, Iran To Close Hostage File by December

NC0710120191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Our radio has learned that the leaders of Iran and Syria have decided to close the foreign hostage file by the end of the year through peaceful or military means, if necessary. The Syrian and Iranian leaders have discovered that some of the extremist leaders holding some hostages are trying to keep the issue going for as long as possible because they are afraid what will happen to them once they play the only card that they have, namely, the hostages.

The extremist hostage-takers have learned that they will be subjected to strict pressure and investigation once the hostage file is closed due to the great damage they caused Lebanon and the embarrassment their dealings with the Syrian and Iranian leadership have created.

The decision to close the hostage file was one of the top issues discussed by Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi during his recent visit to the Iranian capital.

Buwayz Meets Karami, Comments on UN Visit

NC0710125791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami met at noon today with Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz joined the meeting later.

Buwayz said that he handed the clarification message the cabinet sent to the United States, saying: We have not received an answer but negotiations took place on the issue, and we are still waiting for an answer. The negotiations focused on the separation of a number of issues from the Middle East problem. Buwayz said that he will hold a news conference at the Foreign Ministry at 1100 local time tomorrow in which he will talk about the objectives and achievements of the New York without demagoguery.

Answering a question about the visit to New York, Buwayz said: We have not lied to anyone. We did not say that we would return with a decision on the implementation of Resolution 425 in the bag. We said that we were going to struggle for its implementation and to gain assurances and guarantees on Lebanon's interest in this matter.

Buwayz said that the president's visit to Paris will be different than the visit to New York because it will focus on bilateral relations and common interests.

Karami also received 'Ashur al-Furtas, head of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, and Hasan Yusuf, head of the south council.

Karami Defends Visit

NC0710114391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has told the Northern Coordination Committee that the questions being raised by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' are an attempt to restore his diminishing popularity among the Lebanese people. Ja'ja' is resorting to political heresies and negative positions which the majority of the Lebanese people reject.

Before returning to Beirut yesterday, Prime Minister Karami chaired a meeting of the Northern Coordination Committee in Tripoli. Committee Secretary Ghazi Adhami said that Karami reviewed the nation's overall political situation and briefed committee members on the outcome of the presidential delegation's visit to New York. Karami stressed that the presidential delegation avoided two large traps represented by a message the U.S. side intended to address to Lebanon.

Karami stressed the legitimacy of the armed resistance to the Israeli occupation as long as the Zionist enemy continues to reject the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The prime minister indicated that the Israeli enemy and its henchmen are the only side which opposes the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south; all the other parties support the Lebanese authority's desire to impose its sovereignty on all Lebanese territory.

'Economic Agreement' Signed With Syria

NC0310184591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Lebanese Economy and Trade Minister Marwan Hamadah and his Syrian counterpart, Hasan al-Saqqa, today supervised in Shtawrah the signing of an economic agreement for grain milling. The agreement was signed on the Lebanese side by Raji [name indistinct] and on the Syrian side by Habib Nimr.

After the signing and the exchange of documents, Minister Hamadah explained that under this agreement, 10,000 tons of grain a month will be milled in Lebanon and returned to Syria. He said that Lebanon will utilize part of its excess industrial capacity to mill surplus Syrian produce. The Syrian minister said the agreement will benefit the citizens of both countries, emphasizing that the people of Lebanon and Syria are one people.

Egypt's Musa Arrives With Letter for al-Asad

JN0710155191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 Oct (SANA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria. Musa was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry employees, Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA correspondent, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I am carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Hafiz al-Asad within the continuous coordination between Syria and Egypt to discuss the situation in the Middle East and particularly the peace process. He added: I will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on some issues related to the peace process.

Mubarak Letter Calls For Summit

JN0710175091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] A few weeks before a possible Middle East peace conference, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has paid a surprise visit to Damascus carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad. The message contains Egypt's approval of the Syrian proposal for holding a five-way summit [Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanoon, and the PLO] in Damascus to coordinate the stands of the Arab parties for the upcoming conference. From the Egyptian capital, Mustafa Bakri reports:

[Begin Bakri recording] It has been learned that President Mubarak's message contains Egypt's approval of the Syrian proposal for holding a five-way summit in Damascus to adopt a unified Arab position on the peace process before the convocation of the peace conference.

In another development, Egyptian President Mubarak discussed with a Palestinian delegation headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, the latest developments on the peace process in light of the results of the meetings of the Palestine National Council and the recent Palestinian-Jordanian meeting. Informed Palestinian sources told our radio that the Palestinian delegation submitted to President Mubarak the names of some possible candidates for participation in the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference within the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The delegation also briefed President Mubarak on Jordan' stands on the assurances requested by the Palestinians from the U.S. Administration before making a final decision on participation in the peace conference. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Musa Departs Damascus

JN0710191291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

'Amr Musa left Damascus this evening. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of the Protocol Desk at the Foreign Ministry, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Vice President on Arab Ties, Peace, Hostages

JN0610164591 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Oct 91 p 11

["Text" of interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Muhammad KarKuti in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Karkuti] How do you assess current relations between Syria and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]? In addition, what are the results of the visit to Damascus by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, particularly since it was the first visit to Damascus by the president of the state since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait ended?

[Khaddam] When the UAE was established, Syria was among the first countries to recognize it. Ties of friendship and cordiality were established between the two countries' officials, particularly between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid. This friendship and cordiality reflected positively on relations between the two countries. These fraternal relations are developing in a positive and candid manner. During the visit to Syria by Shaykh Zayid, all issues of common interest between the two countries were reviewed and an agreement was reached to activate bilateral relations in all fields. I express Syria's satisfaction with this visit, particularly President al-Asad's satisfaction with the talks he held with his highness.

[Karkuti] How do you view the role played by His Highness Shaykh Zayid in the Arab and international arenas?

[Khaddam] Shaykh Zayid is among the Arab leaders who worked a great deal to achieve comprehensive Arab cooperation and effective solidarity. He plays this role out of his belief that the fate of the Arabs is one common fate. We hope that he, together with his brothers, will reach what will serve the Arab nation and achieve its objectives.

[Karkuti] How do you assess the political experiment in the Syrian domestic arena? Has political participation in the country reached the level sought by the political leadership?

[Khaddam] With the passage of 21 years of the Corrective Movement, I can say that we feel great satisfaction in Syria over the success achieved during this period. Most of the program of the 16 November movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has been achieved. This movement has placed Syria on a new course. We succeeded in establishing the political order sought by our citizens and one which enables us to achieve our strategy in confronting the Zionist aggression on one hand, and in building the country on the other.

We also succeeded in building an economic system which will serve the objectives of the country and achieve our people's aspirations for a prosperous and shining future. We also made great achievements in the cultural and educational fields, as well as in the various fields of everyday life. All Syrians believe that the Corrective Movement has attained great achievements for the country. This affirms the stable situation in Syria and the Syrian people rally around their leadership, represented by President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Karkuti] Is there an imminent cabinet reshuffle in the works? What happened with regard to the Ninth Regional Congress of the ruling Ba'th Party, which has been postponed for many years? What are the obstacles to the convening of this congress?

[Khaddam] Reports about a cabinet reshuffle in Syria are incorrect. Regarding the party congress, the decision will be made by the Party Command, which will define an appropriate date at the appropriate time.

[Karkuti] What is the level of economic openness in Syria, particularly with the existence of clear signs of economic prosperity in the country? And, what is the extent of foreign participation—if it exists—in Syrian investment projects? What kind of projects can Syria allow foreign investors to participate in?

[Khaddam] We have achieved great steps in our economic development. Despite the circumstances of the confrontation with the Zionist enemy, Syria was able to employ a large part of its potential to build a strong economic base. Major steps still have to be taken; these require very great effort, not only government effort, but also that of the citizenry and our Arab brothers.

In fact, since 1970, many pieces of legislation have been enacted to organize the national economy on the basis of economic pluralism in the three sectors—public, mixed, and private. You already know that there are projects that cannot be carried out by individuals. The burden of these projects is shouldered by the government. Had the government not carried out these projects, Syria would be living in poverty and deprivation.

There are huge projects—electricity, oil, gas, and other large investments. These projects depend on the national economy's infrastructure, which forms the central base for the takeoff of the national economy.

There are no big financiers in Syria, nor individuals with immense wealth to take on major enterprises. On the whole, there is a middle class in Syria that plays its national role in building the economy and which is making positive and important contributions. Hence, the state has decided to give national capital the chance to contribute to the building of the national economy. Therefore, the path has been cleared for mixed and private sectors. Now in all the industrial, agricultural, tourism and services sectors, national capital can make its contribution to the economic structure and overall development. If you tour the country you will find that there are hundreds of industrial and agricultural projects undertaken by individuals, and these projects play a significant part in the country's economy.

Regarding foreign contribution to these projects, to date, no foreign investors have approached us about working on any particular venture. There are some Arab projects, though, and some projects are being financed by Arab investment funds in the form of loans.

In addition to that, the door is open to Arab investors who benefit from the same privileges as their Syrian counterparts. Recently, we instigated a new investment law according major privileges to national and Arab investors to promote economic development in the country.

[Karkuti] Notwithstanding signs of an economic upturn in Syria, there has not been a corresponding improvement in the living standards of certain sectors. Indeed, there are wide disparities in salaries between various sectors. For instance, workers in the police and judiciary, and university professors receive far higher pay than workers in other state sectors, and the disparity has grown more pronounced after the formers' pay increase. How do you explain this?

[Khaddam] Salaries and wages are closely linked with overall economic development in the country. The current development projects in Syria have yet to yield the hoped-for results. However, the coming years should produce big results. Increased production and job opportunities should be able to rectify this imbalance you have pointed out. Naturally, this imbalance is not the product of the economic conditions, but is primarily due to the fact that a large portion of our resources go toward defense, and that the Syrian citizen understands the importance of securing the requirements of defense, since we are talking about the future of the country and each citizen. Now and then, the government in Syria discusses this point and adopts measures appropriate to the resources of the country, on the one hand, and the needs of the limited-income groups on the other.

[Karkuti] With ongoing efforts to work out a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, is Syria spending as much on

the military as it did previously? Have the chances off a fresh Arab-Israeli flare-up receded? And, how has the collapse of Iraq as a military force affected the equation?

[Khaddam] I regret to say that more than a few of the Arabs think that peace becomes a reality once it is merely talked about. Peace has yet to come to the region. Look at Israel, and what will you find?

You will find an increase in its military budget and military capability and mobilization. Can we cut our military expenses under such circumstances?

There is a world of difference between talking peace and making peace. Only when peace is a reality can we talk about reduced military spending. However, as long as a single inch of Arab territory remains occupied and a single Arab or Palestinian right remains usurped, the need for continued sacrifice in the interest of building our defense capabilities remains a matter of existence.

Concerning the collapse of Iraq as an Arab power, certainly any collapse or weakness of any Arab country would reflect negatively on the overall Arab situation. No one can say that the collapse of Iraq has not affected the Arab situation, whether concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict or various other Arab causes.

Here lies the Iraqi regime's historical responsibility for pushing Iraq toward successive wars, especially the invasion of Kuwait, which resulted in a real disaster for Iraq and the Arab nation.

[Karkuti] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Syria twice during his seventh Middle East tour. He carried assurances to Syria, as he did to the other Arab countries he visited, to define positions clearly and specifically before the convening of the regional conference next month. How did the Syrian leadership deal with these assurances? How does Syria evaluate the current peace process? And does the Syrian leadership believe that the current peace efforts can lead to the peace Damascus is hoping for?

[Khaddam] In fact, the U.S. secretary presented to us a draft letter of assurances, or guarantees, or assertions. The letter contains positive elements, other elements are being discussed with the U.S. Administration, and we must reach a formula soon.

We, the Arabs, seek to establish peace in the region, and there are many Arab summit resolutions to this effect. However, the matter does not hinge on the Arabs. There is a usurper enemy that categorically refuses to abide by international legitimacy and comply with UN resolutions. Once again, we want peace. When the Israeli enemy becomes convinced to withdraw completely from all occupied Arab territories, and when the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people are guaranteed, then we can say that the peace process has fulfilled its objectives. Undoubtedly, there have been earnest attempts to vitalize and push forward the peace process. Precisely because we believe they are serious, we have dealt, and will continue to deal, positively with these efforts. If a peace allowing us to restore our national and pan-Arab rights is achieved, we will have fulfilled our objectives. If not, the entire world will realize that the enemy is closing all doors to peace.

[Karkuti] Soviet envoy Primakov has deemed it unlikely that the proposed peace conference will convene this month as scheduled. Do you think the conference will be held in October, as planned?

[Khaddam] All efforts are being made on the assumption that the conference will be held toward the end of October. It is likely that it will be held in this timeframe, unless Israel's position prevents this from happening.

[Karkuti] How does the Syrian leadership view Palestinian representation in the proposed peace negotiations, especially in light of the sharp disagreements within the PLO over the peace process. How does Damascus view the positions of the Palestinian organizations that reject peace efforts, especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which have been close to Syria's positions over the past years?

[Khaddam] Our position has originally been that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people. These people have national rights; they have the right to determine their destiny and future. Consequently, these people must choose their representatives, and it is not acceptable for Israel to impose this or that condition concerning Palestinian representation. Concerning disagreements on the Palestinian scene, this is an internal Palestinian affair. Our Palestinian brothers know how to handle their differences, which are nothing new.

[Karkuti] Will the Arab countries participating in the peace process hold a summit in the near future? And is there any coordination among these countries, especially with the PLO?

[Khaddam] There is an agreement to hold meetings to coordinate among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. This is natural, for, the Arabs must not go to the negotiations with their disagreements and disputes intact. Any such disagreements will only serve the Israeli enemy.

Yes, Syria agrees to coordinate with all Arab parties participating in the peace process to reach common positions. The question is essentially a common one, and that is why we always talk about a comprehensive solution and about the need for all Arab parties to shoulder their responsibilities.

[Karkuti] Will an Arab summit be held in this regard?

[Khaddam] This subject was not discussed, but there is an agreement for the foreign ministers or the leaders to hold meetings to coordinate and unify their positions. However, no definite formula has been offered.

[Karkuti] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has stated: The current peace process has given the international organization only a weak role in the proposed negotiations, despite the fact that Israel was established by a UN resolution; there must be an effective role for the United Nations in these said negotiations. What is Syria's position on this issue, especially since Perez de Cuellar's statement is in line with what Damascus had demanded before agreeing to participate in the proposed negotiations?

[Khaddam] We have supported the idea of an effective UN role in solving regional problems, including those of our own region, and we have succeeded in giving an important role to international legitimacy based on the formula reached during discussions with the Americans.

First, the peace process is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This means that the issue is linked with international legitimacy and the Security Council. Second, there was insistence that there be UN participation, and an agreement was reached in this regard. Any party outside the dispute may participate only as an observer, especially since there is an agreement to prevent voting at the conference and any imposition of resolutions on the conference. Therefore, the UN role does not differ from that of any other participant who is not a party to the conflict.

[Karkuti] Yitshaq Shamir says: There is no difference between the territories occupied in 1967 and those occupied in 1948. Moshe Arens says: The Arabs are mistaken if they believe that they will get peace during the proposed negotiations. Does this not mean that the said negotiations will fail?

[Khaddam] Shamir and Arens express Zionist doctrine. This is exactly the Israeli goal; namely, annexing the territories, absorbing the immigrants, and expanding. We were not surprised by these statements because we know the Zionist movement's strategy. At the same time, no Arab involved in the peace process will relinquish any inch of the occupied territories or any Palestinian national right. We are waging a major political conflict with world public opinion at our side. The Israeli intransigence no doubt will further expose Israel's expansionist plans and increase support for the Arabs among world public opinion.

[Karkuti] The recent industrial summit held in London urged the Israeli Government to halt the settlement process in the occupied Arab territories in return for ending the economic blockade imposed on Israel by the Arabs. Will Syria approve that demand, and does the Syrian leadership believe that this will reflect positively on the peace process?

[Khaddam] We reject this categorically. How can we remove the boycott while our territories are still under occupation? How can we reach a state of peace while enemy armies still hold our territories? This is unacceptable in letter and spirit.

[Karkuti] Observers believe that the problem of water in the Middle East will be the primary preoccupation during the current decade at least, and that there are efforts and moves in all directions to make regional arrangements in this regard.
a. What about the agreement with Turkey regarding water distribution?
b. What is Syria's position on Israel's attempts to participate in regional meetings to discuss the water issue? Do you believe that the Middle East water problem can be included in a political settlement in the region?

[Khaddam] Israel has no right to any water in the region, and it should not be a party to any arrangements on the issue of water or on any other regional issue. Discussions are still continuing between us and Turkey over how to share the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. There is a temporary agreement on the Euphrates waters, and there will be a final agreement. With regard to the water conference to be held in Istanbul, our position is clear. We will boycott the conference if Israel participates in it.

[Karkuti] What about the joint water project between Syria and Jordan?

[Khaddam] An agreement was signed with Jordan four years ago. Under that agreement, Jordan was to build the al-Wahdah Dam. However, the dam was not built because of Jordan's financial difficulties.

[Karkuti] The Gulf crisis ended eight months ago. No doubt it has left many negative results, particularly within the Arab arena. Have the Arabs overcome the ugly consequences of that crisis or will it take more time to do so?

[Khaddam] The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait constituted a serious event in the history, reality, and future of the Arabs; it created wide gaps in Arab relations; it constituted a major defeat for joint Arab action; and it caused severe damage to the Arab nation from which Israel and others have benefited.

It is difficult to say that these results have been removed, especially since the Iraqi regime responsible for involving Iraq in two successive wars is still exercising repression, persecution, killing, and a siege against our people in Iraq. It is true that the situation with regard to Arab relations is not a volatile one. However, we cannot say that we have overcome this ordeal. This issue requires a great deal of effort and many measures, for in the face of such fateful events we cannot say "forgiving is noble" because this has nothing to do with forgiveness or punishment. It is a matter of discipline and measures to prevent any recurrence of such actions in the Arab arena.

[Karkuti] The UN secretary general has called on the Security Council to allow Iraq to sell more of its oil to meet its basic needs of food and medicine. Perez de Cuellar says that he does not want to be a witness to the killing of the Iraqi people as a result of the economic blockade which is still being imposed on them. Will Syria

join the UN secretary general in his call even though Saddam Husayn is still at the helm in Baghdad?

[Khaddam] This resolution was issued by the Security Council; it is not a call by the UN secretary general. The resolution allows Iraq to sell part of its oil to meet some of its basic needs. The question is: Can the basic needs of the Iraqi people be met by a few million dollars? The Iraqi people are in need of food and medicine. The people need freedom and dignity—the freedom crushed by the Baghdad regime, and the dignity torn by that regime. This is not a matter of charity. The hearts of all Arabs are bleeding for the sufferings of the Iraqi people. That people are our people, and their sufferings hurt us deep in our hearts. However, the barrier that stands between us and the Iraqi people is not the blockade imposed by the Security Council, but the regime in Baghdad. That regime is the barrier that stands between the Arab nation and its people in Iraq.

Naturally, we supported and support any Security Council resolutions, particularly if these resolutions will alleviate the sufferings of the fraternal Iraqi people.

[Karkuti] The Arab countries are unanimous on the need to amend the Arab League Charter. How does the Syrian leadership see the basics of this amendment? What is the current situation of the Arab League? How do you assess the Arab League's role in the future?

[Khaddam] The activities and work of the Arab League since it was established should be assessed and reviewed. We can say that the Arab League—despite the gaps here and there—played a big pan-Arab role. This should prompt us to maintain the Arab league as an institution for common Arab action.

At the same time, however, the Arab league stumbled since it was established, because it defined the pan-Arab objectives and the political course, but ignored the other courses, particularly the economic and cultural courses.

Therefore, any review of the Arab League Charter should begin by achieving a balance between the linkage of interests among the various Arab countries and the political action among these same countries. [sentence as published] Therefore, the economic issues and development of the Arab homeland should be given primary importance when any amendment is discussed. We notice that ignoring the economic side in the Arab League work has produced many economic fluctuations, which were sometimes contradictory in the various Arab countries; and regional interests emerged as well. Therefore, when we come to the political side, regional interests clash with the comprehensive pan-Arab interests. There is no doubt, regrettably, that regional interests triumphed over the pan-Arab interests, and consequently, the common Arab action was lost and the Arab League did not achieve the objectives for which it was established.

Therefore, a radical review is needed. The review should begin with economic, social, and cultural development. Bases for gradual and planned cooperation among the various Arab countries should be laid down. The mechanism for Arab League action and decisionmaking at its institutions should also be reviewed. We must take into consideration the past circumstances through which the Arabs have passed. We must define how the Arab resolutions were obstructed and how they were aborted. And on this basis, the charter will be amended.

We believe that we all should safeguard the Arab League.

[Karkuti] Can we understand from this that you are calling for an integral Arab economic union? And can this idea be embodied?

[Khaddam] Resolutions were adopted within the framework of the Arab League, the Arab Economic Council, the Arab Economic Unity Council, and the common Arab market. Had these resolutions been implemented we would have overcome the difficulties from which we are suffering, because of the regional policies of this or that country.

What is required now is to reformulate the existing agreements, resolutions, and regulations within the framework of the Arab League and to put them within a gradual, incremental framework that takes into consideration the circumstances of each Arab country to overcome them. This is because the strength of the Arabs as a nation is a strength for every Arab state, and the country which believes it is strong, while the other countries are weak, will become very weak.

[Karkuti] Syria has adopted a clear position on Lebanon's participation in the proposed peace negotiations. It believes that it is not in Lebanon's interest to link its problem to the Middle East crisis. After recent developments, do you still believe in this, especially in the existence of international resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory; namely, Security Council Resolution 425?

[Khaddam] We still believe that Israel's occupation of part of southern Lebanon should be addressed separately from the Arab-Israeli conflict. The matter concerns Lebanon's future, stability, and existence. As long as Israel continues to occupy part of Lebanon, it will continue to try and obstruct the process of national reconciliation and unity in the country.

Lebanon's unity, stability, and independence dictate that the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and the Arab-Israeli conflict be solved separately. This, certainly, does not mean that Lebanon should not participate in the peace conference. Lebanon can participate as one of the Arab countries surrounding Palestine. Lebanon is concerned with comprehensive arrangements for peace.

[Karkuti] There have been conflicting Lebanese reactions to the security and defense agreement between Syria and Lebanon. How do you explain this agreement?

Can we understand that the Syrian-Lebanese treaty, which was signed about three months ago, has certain shortcomings?

[Khaddam] The treaty you are referring to says that the two governments have the right to conclude bilateral agreements on various issues, whether they be economic, security, or some other matter. The security agreement came pursuant to the treaty. The treaty has no shortcomings because when the two governments signed the security agreement, they proceeded from the treaty.

[Karkuti] Is there any approximate date for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon? How is the Syrian leadership handling this matter?

[Khaddam] We are fully and accurately committed to the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Karkuti] How does Damascus view economic cooperation with Lebanon? How far does this cooperation go? Do you think that you can halt the passage of Israeli commodities through Lebanon?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese and Syrian governments are cooperating to confront infiltrations. We have made some progress that will help to stop the infiltration of Israeli commodities. Concerning cooperation, specialists in the two countries will discuss the kind of cooperation possible on the basis of common and mutual interests. As the older sister, Syria will open its heart and provide every assistance to its Lebanese brothers within bilateral economic relations.

[Karkuti] Two years after the conclusion of the al-Ta'if agreement, how do you evaluate it? Is it a political or security solution to Lebanon's problem?

[Khaddam] The agreement constitutes a comprehensive resolution to the Lebanese crisis. It produced results that no one expected. Less than a year ago, the specter of war loomed over Lebanon and killing and destruction continued. Now the war is over, all lines have disappeared, and the Lebanese are moving from points far to the north to far to the south, feeling truly at home. Moreover, the Lebanese state established its main institutions and assumed authority and sovereignty, the militias were dissolved, large amounts of weapons were collected, and the Constitution was amended.

Thus, the al-Ta'if agreement has resulted in the current state of peace and stability in Lebanon. The agreement has become a charter for national reconciliation.

[Karkuti] Do you see an imminent solution to the problem of the Western hostages held in Lebanon, especially after Damascus has demanded that the problem of the Golan Heights' hostages be part of the whole issue? [sentence as published]

[Khaddam] We are holding many contacts on the subject of the hostages, and we are cooperating with some countries, especially Iran, and with some Lebanese parties to solve this problem. We can say that what has already been accomplished is positive and good. But these efforts must continue, and we believe that we should go to the end to bring this dossier to a close.

[Karkuti] What is the nature of the current relations between Syria and Iran? How do you view Iran's role in the Gulf security arrangements, knowing that Tehran protested against the defense agreement between Kuwait and the United States?

[Khaddam] Relations between Syria and Iran are good and deep. They have been tested several times and proved credible. There is full confidence between the Syrian and Iranian leadership. Iran is a neighbor with historical and cultural links extending back several centuries. It is only natural for relations between Iran and the Arab countries to be good. On the other hand, because Iran is a principle country within the region, no one can ignore its role, whether in security arrangements or with regard to security, economic, and political cooperation in the region.

[Karkuti] Is Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expected in Damascus shortly?

[Khaddam] There are contacts between the Egyptian and Syrian presidents in this regard. There must be a summit meeting soon, whether in Damascus or Cairo.

Afghanistan

Major General on Paktia Province Attacks

LD061022449l Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1627 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Statement by Major General Abdul Qader Maikhel, general commander of the South-East Front, on the political and military situation in Paktia Province, at the South-East Front General Command operation headquarters on 6 October—recorded]

[Text] The armed opposition extremists including the formation of Khales, the formation of Golboddin Hekmatyar, the formation of Abdul-Rab-Sayyaf, and the formation [word indistinct] decided to organize a collective attack on Gardeyz from six directions, and, as they put it, capture Gardeyz. The South-East Zone General Command took serious measures to strengthen defensive lines and to alert all combat forces stationed in the front or back lines. It organized all the firing systems, the anti-tank systems, anti-air defense systems, infantry defense systems, and so on, and was intensively paying attention to the situation. The opposite side, against humanitarian principles and all humanitarian norms, resorted to missiles attacks beginning on 9 September against the Gardeyz citizens and people of the villages and surrounding areas. They were firing as many as 2,400 missiles daily on the city and villages, killing and injuring a number of women, children, and elderly people. The South-East Front artillery forces inflicted reciprocal blows on their missile and artillery firing positions, which inflicted heavy losses. They have mentioned such casualties in their radio communications with each other.

The missile attacks were continuous from 9 to 30 September. Fortunately, as a result of effective measures taken by the defensive line armed forces and the control and dispatch positions, and also as a result of the Gardeyz peoples' past experience and suitable shelter, the casualties were not as high. Innocent casualties, however, especially women and children, would have needed more calculation and attention.

At 0400 [2330 GMT] on 30 September, the enemy attacked suddenly from three directions, [word indistinct], Sayd Karam, and Sataw Kandaw. It also carried out a series of small attacks from other directions. Their tank and infantry attack, however, supported by artillery and missile fire from Mezael and Sakr [as received], was very heavy and serious. The enemy attack, that is the armed opposition extremists, was pushed back and heavy losses were inflicted on them. The moment the units and companies entered combat operations and opened fire against the aggressive armed opposition extremists, the enemy was pushed back and heavy losses were infliced on them. [passage indistinct] The 643d Central Reserve Forces Unit entered into combat operations in the direction of Sayd Karam, and along with the forces stationed in the Sayd Karam defensive lines, were fully in control of the situation and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. They did not allow the enemy even one inch of the defensive lines.

In the direction of Sataw Kandaw, by using the reserve forces, we were able to prevent the (?imposed) attacks and to protect the defensive line. On the first day of combat the enemy casualties were very heavy as a result of our artillery fire, and combat continued both day and night. Various attacks were continuing on the city and on units and companies of the front lines. On the morning of 1 October, the enemy attacked again from the direction of Sataw Kandaw and simultaneously from Sayd Karam. The second attack was aimed to cut the Terra highway, that is the Kabul-Gardeyz highway which passes through Terra pass, and [words indistinct]. A number of small attacks in other directions were also carried out along with missile fire and guerrilla attacks.

[Words indistinct] they wanted, on the one hand, to block the Kabul-Gardeyz highway, and on the other hand, to attempt an attack on Gardeyz city from the direction of Sataw Kandaw thus pressuring the tank and artillery units of the defense lines. Under this situation, the patriotic defenders of Kabul's model Division No. 1, Army Corps Unit No. 3, and guard units defended against and put a stop to the enemy. The same day, the attackers began another offensive at (?1330). [Words indistinct] the enemy offensive was prevented in this direction.

From 1 October until today, 6 October, the enemy has made several attempts, attacking us five times from the direction of Sayd Karam. The first attack from that direction on 1 October was very intense, but the courageous defenders of the homeland inflicted heavy losses. Their tanks and artillery were destroyed, and their troops suffered heavy losses, they retreated. Even at this very moment their dead are lying around security posts and Sayd Karam defense lines. They themselves said in radio messages that their dead are lying there and cannot be recovered.

The enemy and opposition forces have several times launched their attacks from the near Sataw Kandaw, Sayd Karam, and the (words indistinct) in the Mangal mountains. [Words indistinct] they have launched several attacks from the the direction of Tira and have suffered heavy losses. The highway is secure. Our security posts along the highway linking with Logar, which are composed of various armed forces units including [word indistinct], state security units of Paktia Province, Paktia Sarandoy, the Fedayan-e Watan, as well as units and companies belonging to (?militia units), have protected the security of the Kabul-Logar highway. The highway is currently open to traffic. [passage indistinct] We are in control of the situation. Gardeyz is resolutely defended and all Gardeyz defenders have vowed that we will defend Gardeyz, the ancient Paktia Province capital, to the end of our lives. Troop and officer morale is high. The enemy has suffered heavy losses which have been publicized through the mass media. I would like to give

an example: They have said in their radio messages to their center that "our losses are very heavy; we have many wounded; no strength is left in us; we have no offensive strength; send our replacements so that we can go to the front lines and new forces can take our place." They have also said that "you are not [word indistinct]; you do not take away our wounded, how could we continue the war." These problems, not joining forces, not helping each other, not evacuating the dead and wounded, and even food not reaching them have created tension among them. As far as we know, differences between the Golboddin and Haqani groups have occured and mistrust between some other groups, for instance with the Nasrollah Mansur group. In conclusion, on behalf of all armed forces stationed in Gardeyz, I would like to assure all the people of Afghanistan, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and personally, to the country's president, that we will defend Gardeyz, the people of Gardeyz, and the people of Paktia Province to the last breath of our lives.

Najibollah Aide: Stalemate Prevails in Gardeyz

BK0710003491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1754 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Kabul, Oct 6 (AFP)—Afghan armed forces are holding the upper hand in the fight for the strategic eastern garrison city of Gardeyz in the face of a major rebel offensive, a top Kabul government official said Sunday.

"Stalemate [word indistinct] are prevailing in Gardeyz and I am certain that they will continue to do so," said Farid Ahmad Mazdak, a close associate of President Najibollah and deputy chairman of the ruling Watan (Homeland) party.

"The advance of the enemy has been repulsed and the armed forces are holding their positions," he told AFP.

Mazdak admitted that the military situation around the city, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Kabul, was still "serious and complicated." [passage omitted]

Mazdak repeated charges that mojahedin fighters who launched the [word indistinct] offensive last Monday were armed with Soviet-made tanks and other weaponry captured from Iraq by U.S.-led forces during the Gulf war.

Kabul has alleged that the weapons had been gifted by Saudi Arabia to the mojahedin.

"But despite that, Gardeyz will not collapse," Mazdak said.

The government has relied heavily on its air force to pound mojahedin positions around Gardeyz, the strategic gateway to Kabul which lies at the junction of a major land supply route.

But air activity was markedly less in Kabul on Sunday compared to previous days, apparently because of cloudy weather accompanied by rain which resulted in reduced visibility.

The main air effort has been launched from Bagram, Afghanistan's main air base, where government jet fighters have been concentrated.

Soviet-built Antonov-12 aircraft equipped with 20-tonne bombs have been pressed into action from Kabul.

Foreign military observers said the Kabul government has despatched hundreds of elite national guards and Uzbek militiamen known for their fighting prowess to beef up the garrison.

The government has denied all mojahedin claims of successes in the fighting and in turn claimed to have delivered "crushing blows" on the resistance fighters. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Accuses Pakistan of Interference

LD0610234191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Statement by the Meli Shura's Wolasi Jerga; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The courageous Afghans and the true sons of our forefathers, who were born free, once again have come up against a great test of resolutely defending the independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, honor, and dignity of the sacred land of Afghanistan. Our dear compatriots know that Pakistani militarists have once again engaged in open interference and aggression against the sacred sovereignty of our country and have instigated extremist warmongers to attack Gardeyz city—the capital of Paktia Province—to spill the blood of our innocent compatriots, and to destroy our country morally and materially.

Our people, and the people of the world, expected the ruling circles in Pakistan to follow international mood recently created after the latest national and world moves toward the political and peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan and to show positive reaction. Now, when our persecuted compatriots and international public opinion—as a result of wide international efforts, such as the declaration of the five-point plan of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, the issue of the USSR-U.S. joint statement about Afghanistan, and other sincere initiatives emanating from the good intention of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan toward maintaining peace in our country—have become, more than ever before, hopeful for the end to bloodshed in Afghanistan, it is in no way logical that

the Government of Pakistan continue to intensify interference and provocations against our country and, in this way, lengthen and intensify the pains and sufferings of the Afghans.

The large military offensive on Gardeyz city, the movement of which is directly organized from Pakistani territory and with the help of the military forces of that country, is nothing but a brazen violation by the government of that country of the contents of the Geneva accords, internationally accepted principles, UN resolutions and the recent plan by its secretary general, the USSR-U.S. statement, and finally the great demand and will of our people for maintaining peace in the country. For example, even the well-thinking leaders of a part of the opposition formations and among them Hazrat-e Mojadeddi have condemned the military attack on Gardeyz city and have called it an anti-Islamic and anti-Afghan action.

The Meli Shura's Wolasi Jerga of the Republic of Afghanistan, while expressing its severest objections concerning the joint military action of Pakistan and the extremists on Gardeyz city, call upon all Afghans, tribes, and nationalities of the country to defend every inch of national soil and to repulse the aggressors. We are completely confident that the personnel of the country's armed forces will revive the memory of the epics of their fathers and forefathers in defending the independence, territorial integrity, honor, and dignity of Afghanistan.

The Meli Shura's Wolasi Jerga asks all parliaments, governments, social circles of the world and in particular the United Nations, by exploring all possibilities, to exert pressure on the Government of Pakistan and compel this country to cease direct interference and aggression in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan so that the people of our country can solve their national questions through peaceful means without foreign interference.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is instructed to send the contents of this statement to the UN Security Council and the parliament of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and ask for the goodwill efforts of these sources.

Success comes from God.

[Signed] Wolasi Jerga of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan

Kabul Protest Over Fighting, Pakistani Actions

LD0710190291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Kabul citizens held a march and meeting today to express solidarity with and support for the defenders of Gardeyz and to condemn the treacherous actions of the extremists and Pakistani aggressive militarists. They demanded and end to the Pakistani interference and aggression against the internal affairs of our country. Shouting slogans in defense of peace, in favor of an end to war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, on prevention of interference by Pakistani militarists, and in condemnation of terrorist activities by the extremists, the marchers held an extensive meeting in front of Pakistan's embassy.

The meeting was attended by the leadership of the Council of Unity of the Peace Front of Afghanistan, the leadership of the Islamic Party of the people of Afghanistan, members of the leadership of Kabul City Council of the Homeland Party, members of social organizations, employees of the state departments and citizens of Kabul city. [passage omitted]

The marchers later gathered in front of the office of the United Nations Organization [UNO] in Kabul. A message from the marchers was read out in that meeting by the chairman of the peace of the third ward of Kabul city, and was handed in to the UNO office.

The message reads in a part: Recently, the warmongering extremist forces have launched extensive attacks against the citizens of Gardeyz with the support of Pakistani militarists. Their action is against all accepted international norms, the provisions of the Geneva accords, and the U.S.-Soviet joint statement on Afghanistan. It is indicative of the intensification of attacks by Pakistani militarists and the dispatch of various types of weapons to our country from Pakistan.

We hope the UNO will raise our voice of protest against the aggressive Pakistani militarists and extremists supported by them in the creditable organization of the UNO, and prevent the repetition of such activities by the extremists and their backers.

At the end of the meeting, prayers were read by Mawlawi Rullah Abed for a speedy end to war and bloodshed in the country and to ensure a nationwide peace in the country.

Bangladesh

MP's Seek Stay Against Presidential Election

BK0710040691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, seven members of parliament have sought a stay order against tomorrow's election for the president under the open ballot system. On the second day of hearing of the writ petition before the vacation bench of the Supreme Court in Dhaka yesterday, they contended that this will deny the very privilege of the elected members of parliament.

Court Rejects Petition

BK0710160291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] A part of the writ petition praying for stay of presidential election scheduled for tomorrow has been

rejected by the single bench of high court division of the Supreme Court. The prayer for stay order was filed by the deputy leader of the opposition and six other opposition MP's. The single bench judge Justice Habibur Rahman Khan gave the judgment after hearing both the petitioners and defendants this afternoon. A large number of lawyers, newsmen, and people from all walks of life were present during the hearing and announcement of the judgment. Consequent upon the judgment, the presidential election will be held in the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] tomorrow afternoon as scheduled earlier. The election commissioner will conduct the election. The MP's will elect the president through open ballot. The candidates running for the presidency are former speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas and former chief justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury.

As already reported, a 24-hour prohibitory order on rallies, processions, and demonstrations in the parliament building and adjoining areas comes into force at midnight tonight to ensure peaceful holding of the presidential election. The ban will be effective till midnight tomorrow. Carrying of any weapon, explosives, or harmful articles has also been banned during the period. The Election Commission says the journalists with valid pass will be allowed to enter the Sangsad Bhavan through the South Plaza gate of the second floor of the South Block.

Iran

Red Cross Official on Hostage Release Efforts

LD0610121991 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 5, IRNA—Rumours were spread here late Friday on the imminent release of another group of Lebanese inmates by the Zionist regime in return for the freedom of some Western hostages in Lebanon. Informed sources told IRNA here, that at present efforts are underway for the release of a new group of Lebanese prisoners in the Zionist jails. Simultaneously with the release of this group one of the Western hostages, said to be an American, would be released in Lebanon, the sources said.

Head of the Middle East bureau of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon who toured Sidon on Thursday to pave the way for an ICRC inspection of al-Khyyam prison in occupied southern Lebanon, said that extensive efforts were under way for the release of a number of Lebanese inmates and a Western hostage.

He stressed that these efforts were kept top secret in order to avoid any unpredictable obstacles in this connection. Meanwhile, other sources in Sidon revealed that the Zionist regime was prepared to transfer corpses of a number of Lebanese martyrs to Lebanon through the ICRC.

Tehran Views Soviet-U.S. Nuclear Arms Cuts

LD0710135191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a reaction to the unilateral nuclear arms reduction by the United States, the Union of Soviet Republics has announced that it will destroy its tactical weapons. Mikhail Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union will eliminate all its tactical nuclear weapons deployed on ships and submarines and cut its armed forces by 700,000.

Following the failure of the recent coup d'etat in the Soviet Union, and with the West, especially the United States, becoming confident about the continuation of the reforms in that country, nuclear arms reduction—with the twin objective of reducing the burden of military expenditure and showing good will to the opposite side—is enjoying an upward trend. Last week, in a television message, George Bush for the first time made unprecedented proposals regarding the reduction of nuclear arms. The proposals were so far-reaching that, after many years of the Soviet Union losing the initiative in such policies, its reaction was marked by confusion. [sentence as heard]

Under the new international conditions, reducing the military budget has in reality become a general policy across the world. Moreover, the recent war in the Persian Gulf and the experiences gleaned from it by the states involved in the war resulted in the western countries making substantial changes in their military policies, and in the formation of a coherent, flexible, and responsive force equipped with the most modern technology to replace the classic military doctrines in which the use of large numbers of soldiers and armored equipment formed the main pillar of armies.

Military analysts believe that although the world is daily witnessing armed forces reduction announcements by various states, this does not necessarily entail a reduction in military power. And in reality those policies mean nothing but the conformity of political policies with the new international requirements and it should not lead to the conclusion that the world is progressing toward real disarmament.

Nevertheless, from the experts' point of view, the arms reduction issue has its own special meaning for both the Soviet Union and for America. The Soviet Union, which is experiencing a turbulent period with Gorbachev's reform policies as well as the adverse effects of the recent abortive coup d'etat, expects the state's nuclear capability, as the sole symbol of its superpower era, to be used to attract western aid. In this way, by receiving its required resources from the West and by increasing its economic power, is is reducing its military power—which in any case is considered a threat against the West—in the same proportion.

As for America, considering the recent Soviet coup d'etat, which raised the issue of the possibility of illegal use of nuclear arms as a serious threat, even by giving concessions to the Soviet Union, it expects to reduce the number of nuclear weapons which can be used against the West, especially America.

Fishermen Said Harassed by U.S. Helicopter

LD0610121691 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Genaveh Port, Bushehr Prov., Oct. 6, IRNA—A U.S. Navy helicopter in the Persian Gulf on Saturday prevented two Iranian fishermen from fishing. The fishermen told IRNA here today that the incident occurred near a naval zone called "Buyeh Khour Musa", some 40 miles west of this port.

They said the American helicopter flew in a very low altitude to the extent that the strong wind caused by its propeller endangered the lives of the fishermen. They added that the U.S. helicopter first tried to direct their boat towards an American warship. "But we refused to do so and later they warned us to leave the area," one fisherman said.

Dailies Rule Out Improved U.S. Relations

LD0610101791 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—Two Persian dailies Sunday commented on the U.S. President George Bush's statements on improvement of ties with Iran and said that this would not be possible unless the U.S. gave up its "mischievious acts" against Iran. JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said in its editorial that Iran's hostility against the U.S. was a rooted issue stemming from direct American interference in her domestic affairs as well as its blatant crimes against humanity. Mentioning instances of Washington's hostile policies against the Islamic Republic, the daily said it has also intensified its moves against the Islamic world.

"What is being done these days to establish the illegal existence of the Qods occupier regime and ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation are in fact among Washington's most basic policies to humiliate the Islamic world and dominate the Zionists to decide the fate of the region."

The daily stated that the wrath and hatred shown by the Iranian nation against the U.S. was a logical consequence of the criminal policies of a government which has violated all human principles and international criteria and which intends to guarantee its illegitimate interests by resorting to various crimes and mischiefs.

"Under these circumstances, there remains no place for improvement of ties with the U.S.," it pointed out.

Another daily, ABRAR said President Bush's call was nothing but a new maneuver to draw support for implementation of Washington's Middle East policies. Linking this issue with the hostage question, in the opinion of ABRAR, is only aimed at justifying the perpetuation of the hostile policies of the White House against the Islamic Republic.

The daily said the depth of U.S. hostility against Iran was evident in the continued blocking of Iran's assets, as well as in imposing economic sanctions and political pressures on other countries to suspend political-economic agreements with Iran.

"How can one see the U.S. in a friendly garment while it is holding a dagger behind to strike blows. This is the whole episode behind repitition of the U.S. President's call to Iran for improving relations," it said.

Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistani Ambassador

LD0710130891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] In the wake of an attack by a group of insurgents on the property of the Islamic Republic of Iran's consulate in the town of Peshawar in Pakistan, that country's ambassador to Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today. In the meeting, Mr. Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, voiced the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong protest against such atrocious and malicious actions to the Pakistani ambassador. Having submitted a note of protest in that regard, he called on the Pakistani Government to deal with this incident seriously. While giving the necessary explanations, it should prevent repetition of such actions, which leave an unpleasent mark on the growing relations between the two countries.

French Official Comments on Visit, Departs

LD0710132891 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—A senior French official here Sunday denied that the visit to Tehran of President Francois Mitterrand has been postponed.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Alain Vivien added in an interview at the end of his one-day visit to Tehran that the precise date of the visit depended on a mutual agreement to choose the most appropriate time.

Declining to give details of his talks with Iranian officials on Tehran-Paris financial disputes, Vivien did not rule out a final settlement of the differences while preserving some of the contracts on which the two sides have disputes.

He said one important achievement of his Tehran visit was to accelerate the settlement of the disputes. Expressing satisfaction with the promotion of Tehran-Paris ties, he said that the French pavilion at the 17th

Tehran international trade fair this year had been extended—a good indication of promotion of mutual ties. He said mutual cooperation for manufacturing Peugeot, Renault and Citroen automobiles has provided the two countries with good industrial experiences. He added that with regards to Iran's need for cars, grounds exist for further expansion of ties in this connection.

Describing Iran's foreign policy vis-a-vis Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union as balanced and calculated, he said both Iran and France supported the statement of the U.N. secretary general regarding Afghanistan.

The French state minister said his country eagerly followed the talks between the member countries of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran and awaited the convening of their next meeting in a near future. He stressed that France supports regional stability.

Meanwhile, in a meeting before departure, Vivien discussed promotion of Tehran-Paris technical ties with Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian Sunday. Vivien voiced the interest of French industrialists to promote economic and industrial cooperation with Iran.

Turning to the existing grounds for mutual cooperation, Nezhad- Hoseynian said France can play an important role in paving the way for expansion of cooperation and elimination of obstacles. He expressed hope that mutual efforts to implement the agreements and contracts would continue.

Paper Urges Smooth Relations With France

LD0710110791 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday called for removing forever the obstacles which block Tehran-Paris smooth relations through mutual understanding and implementation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy.

An editorial in the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' stressed that "Iran and France have a long history of mutual cooperation in the cultural, economic and political fields" and "have a lot to exchange in terms of technology."

The paper singled out Irano-France cooperation for the construction of the gas trunkline from Iran to Europe and termed French President Francois Mitterrand's forthcoming visit to Tehran as "a landmark for boosting relations between the two countries in all directions."

"What is now necessary," the editorial concluded, "is that those hidden hands which block the smooth flow of Irano-French relations be cut forever through mutual understanding and in the light of the policy of President Rafsanjani's administration which seeks cordial relations with all countries, with the exception of a few and under the framework of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal matters of either country."

Pakistan

'Mob' Attacks Iranian Cultural Center

BK0410140491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 4 (AFP)—Troops fired in the air to hold off a mob attacking the Iranian Cultural Center here Friday following a funeral attended by thousands for slain former Governor Fazl Haq.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif joined the funeral prayers held at a local stadium.

A former corps commander and a lieutenant general, Haq was buried in an army graveyard with full military honours.

Haq, 63, was gunned down Thursday by unknown assailants in Peshawar's Defence Colony district. The assailants, armed with automatic weapons, fled in a car after ambushing his Pajero jeep. His injured bodyguard said there were four attackers. The condition of his chauffeur was also reported out of danger.

Top Afghan resistance leaders including Burhanuddin Rabbani, Yunus Khales and Rasul Sayyaf were present at the funeral along with a large number of Afghan refugees.

During his seven year rule as governor, which ended in 1985, Haq sheltered over two million Afghans in his North West Frontier Province.

Paramilitary troops were deployed to protect Iranian interests here after Haq's son Adnan Khan lodged a complaint with police accusing staff at the Iranian Consulate of involvement in the murder, a charge refuted by Ambassador Javad Mansuri.

Chanting "down with Iran" and "hang Shiite culprits" a group of youth pelted the Iranian Cultural Centre with stones and pulled down signs, witnesses said. Troops fired warning shots and police charged the group with batons. No injuries were reported.

Police refused to comment on the complaint, as is their practice in murders of sensitive nature.

Haq was blamed by the minority Shiite community for the 1988 murder of its leader Arif Hussain al-Hussaini.

Haq's son, Dr. Adnan, has also named leaders of the Pakistani Shiite community as involved in the assassination, press reports said. He told newsmen that the central government had also alerted the provincial administration against a "fanatic group's plan," but the administration failed to take precautionary steps.

A spokesman for a Shiite party denied the charges. He said there was a "natural dislikeness among us" but, added that "we never wished that he should meet such an end, rather we desired to see him punished through a court trial."

The murder sent shock waves across the country. Police have been alerted in other cities also and have guarded Shiite religious places to prevent any sectarian violence during Friday congregations.

Police were investigating if Haq's murder was linked to sectarian vendetta. Local press said Haq, whose name was mentioned in drug scandals, and who had political and family rivalries, had also created enemies in his campaign against drug dens during his last days as governor.

Iranian Embassy Denies Involvement

LD0710150791 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 7, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in a statement issued here Monday brushed aside all accusations levelled against Iranian diplomats in connection with the assassination of Fazl Haq, a member of the Provincial Assembly of Frontier Province.

The statement also warned to take legal action against those elements trying to tarnish the friendly relations between Tehran and Islamabad by raising unfounded and baseless charges against Iranian diplomats.

It said the Iranian Embassy, quite astonished at the accusation levelled against Iran, the closest friend of Pakistan, has considered such allegations "insults" to the noble people of Iran.

Fazl Haq, a retired general and the number one suspect in the assassination in 1988 of leader of Pakistani Shi'ite Muslims Allama Seyyed Aref Husseini, was gunned downed by yet unidentified persons on October 3.

The statement also held the Pakistani Government responsible for safeguarding the lives and properties of Iranian diplomats based in that country, saying the grave consequences of such filthy moves would never be rectified by the Pakistani people.

It called on the Pakistan press to refrain from publishing such baseless allegations or adding fuel to the issue, something that would only result in unfavorable effects in this country.

Following the murder of Fazl Haq, his family and Wahabi members of the Sepah-i-Sahabeh, accused Iranian consul general in Peshawar of complicity in the assassination.

Group Warns Government Over Fazl Haq Murder

BK0710050391 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—The Tehrik Nifaz-i Fiqah Jafria [TNFJ], NWFP attributed the brutal murder of late Fazl Haq to well-planned conspiracy of those elements who want to create a law and order situation in the country in order to fulfill their vested interests.

The TNFJ in a press release on Sunday warned the government to desist from taking any action against its chief Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi and General Secretary Anwar Ali Akhunzada, otherwise thousands of Shiites would sacrifice their lives for the protection of their leaders.

Sri Lanka

Speaker Suspends Assembly Amid Uproar

BK0810042891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0421 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Colombo, Oct 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's parliamentary speaker suspended the assembly Tuesday amid a huge uproar created by opposition MP's protesting his rejection of an impeachment resolution against President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"If you don't conduct yourself properly, I will adjourn the House," Speaker Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad repeatedly warned opposition MP's soon after announcing he had rejected the unprecedented motion against Premadasaa.

Shortly after parliament began sitting Tuesday Mohammad came under intense heckling by opposition lawmakers for his decision taken Monday not to proceed against Premadasa.

Parliament, which still has an opposition-sponsored no-confidence motion against Premadasa before it, will resume Wednesday.